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FREE

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NATIONWIDE "HANDS OFF"
PROTEST HELD APRIL 5 IN PAW PAW

More than 250 people joined in the nationwide mass mobilization protest Saturday morning, April 5, at the Maple Lake Amphitheatre, Paw Paw. The event included speakers, music, food, and a protest march through the downtown. The guest speaker was Justin Mendoza, chair of the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party. Kathleen Murphy was also one of several speakers. The protest march made its way from the Amphitheatre to downtown Paw Paw.
Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

PAW PAW - More than 250 people joined in the nationwide mass mobilization protest Saturday morning at the Maple Lake Amphitheatre, Paw Paw. The event included speakers, music, food, and a protest march through the downtown.

The guest speaker was Justin Mendoza, chair of the Kalamazoo County Democratic Party.

"We have to remember that none of this is normal. None of this is the America we love. None of this is the dream," Mendoza told the crowd. "It's time to take action, whether that's by protesting and making your voice heard, organizing mutual aid for your community, or running for office to fight back against fascism, today is the day you start fighting back."

Among the other speakers was Sabine Krummel of Lawrence. Krummel, who moved to the United States when she was 13 from Europe, grew up hearing stories about her family who lived in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s during the rise of fascism. Her family's history is what encouraged her to speak Saturday at the Hands-Off rally.

"We are all connected. There is a ripple effect that goes far beyond what we see. It's like those domino runs we used to build as kids. You stand up one domino after another until there are many," said Krummel.

"Now imagine a domino chain of people from Wyoming to Kansas to Oregon and to Hawaii. Each being touched by the previous one," Krummel added. "I believe even the smallest gesture of kindness will impact the outcome between sanity and destruction of sanity. I believe your single action of courage today in Michigan can impact someone in Florida, California, Arizona, or Ohio."

Kathleen Murphy, said, "In the few weeks Trump has been in office, his administration has taken a wrecking ball to our rights, freedoms, our public services and democracy. We are all gathered here today to stand up for our families, our neighbors and our communities against the threats imposed by this administration.

She continued, "The Department of Government Efficiency run by Elon Musk, who is unelected, has some serious conflicts of interest and has shown contempt for important government functions. The efforts of DOGE have been fraught with errors, poor planning and outright lies There has been insufficient oversight of these activities and our personal data has been compromised."

She concluded, "I believe that all of the chaos is intentional by design. He is squashing dissent and difference of opinion against student protesters, independent reporters, judges, lawyers and political opponents. They threaten, bully, and punish folks who get in their way to break us, and make us give up. We love our democracy and freedom too much to lose our voices. Let the world hear our voices today and in the near future."

Sponsored by Indivisible Southwest Michigan Van Buren County, a chapter of the national Indivisible organization, the rally was one of many held throughout Michigan and among 1,200 organized across the country.

"We are a small yet mighty group of citizens from Paw Paw to the Harbor Country along the Lake Michigan shoreline, to the surrounding areas of Southwest Michigan," said Jay Foskey, co-chair of the group. "Today, we see many people coming together for many reasons, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, veteran's services, education and the list goes on. But we have one thing in common, we know what's going on in Washington is wrong."

Area Easter egg hunts announced

Mattawan Lions Club and Mattawan MBA to host Easter events

MATTAWAN - The Mattawan Lions Club and Mattawan Business Association will host a Community Carnival and Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Antwerp Activity Center, 24821 Front Ave., Mattawan.

The all-ages community carnival will feature games for 50 cents each, with proceeds going to the Mattawan Lions Club to raise money for community efforts.

At noon, by the Van Buren District Library Antwerp Sunshine Library, children are invited to join the Mattawan Business Association (MBA) in an Easter Egg Hunt.

Paw Paw to hold Community Easter Egg Hunt

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 19, at 10:30 a.m., at Kid's Paradise Playground 200 S. Liberty St., Paw Paw. The free event is for children up to 12 years old. Children who find a Golden Ticket will receive a "Great Prize." The event, which will be held rain or shine, will end when supplies are gone. For more information, contact Pastor Maria Bowater at RedArrow Ministries.

Ox Roast & Homecoming Comm. To Sponsor Lawrence Easter Egg Hunt

LAWRENCE - The Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming Committee will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the Lawrence Village Park.

Age group times will be: 0 to 3 at 11 a.m.; ages 4 to 6 at 11:30 a.m.; ages 7 to 9 at 11:45 a.m.; and ages 10 to 13 at noon. An egg hunt for special needs will be held at 12:15 p.m.

Crafts and games, sponsored by the Van Buren District Library, Lawrence Branch, will be available in the park during that time.

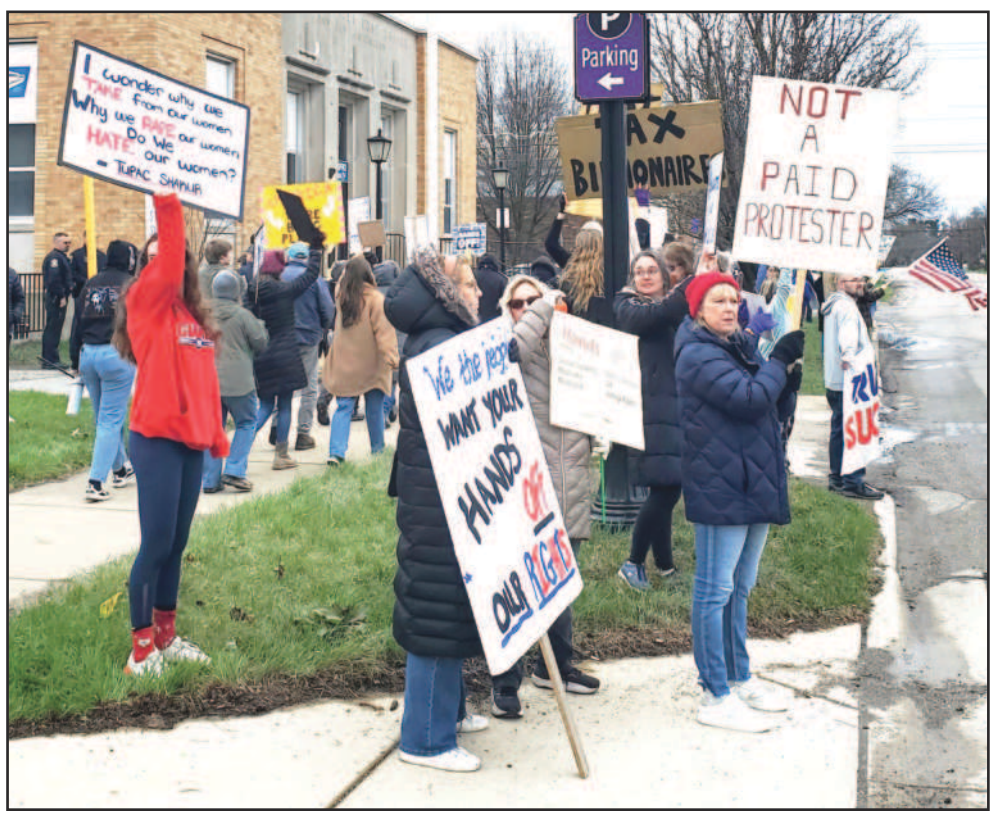
Illinois man drowns in Paw Paw River, Lawrence

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWRENCE – A 48-year-old Illinois man drowned Thursday afternoon, April 3, in the Paw Paw River, in the Village of Lawrence, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said Van Buren County Dispatch received a call shortly before 1 p.m. in reference to a male who had gone underneath the water of the Paw Paw River in the Village of Lawrence. Upon arriving on scene, responders requested that the Sheriff's Office Dive Team respond to assist. Members of the dive team arrived on scene and began to conduct a search for the victim, who was identified as a 48-year-old male from Illinois.

After approximately an hour of searching, a member of the dive team was able to locate the victim in the Paw Paw River. He was pronounced deceased on scene. The scene and investigation were turned over to the Lawrence Police Department for further investigation.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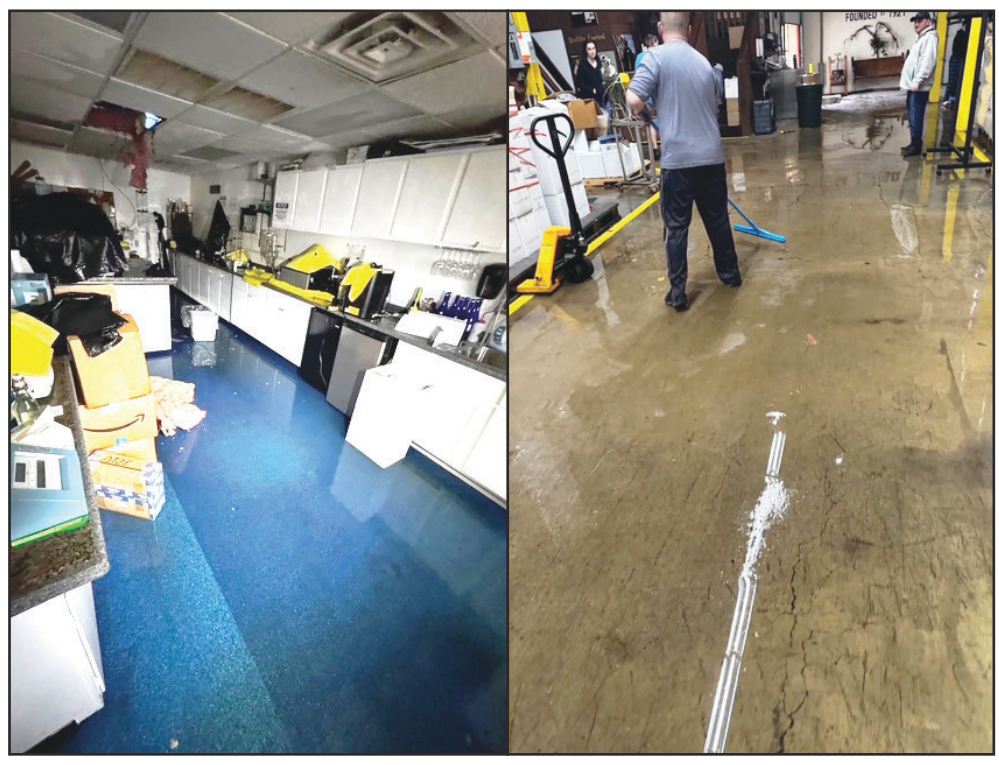
ESA to help area veteran

On Friday, March 28, Kevin Ferrell, center, took ownership of Emotional Service Animal (ESA), Birdie, at the Van Buren County Veterans Services Building, 226 E. Michigan Ave, Paw Paw. Shown at Ferrell's right is his wife, Rachel Ferrell. The two are shown with the Veteran Services Team, from far left, Dennis Urquhart, Mike Fossitt and David Krzycki. The dog was trained by Magnum K9, of Sturgis, MI., represented by Megan Szepesi, kneeling. "We are honored today to help another veteran here in Van Buren County with an Emotional Service Animal (ESA). It brings all of us great joy to help veterans in our community. We would like to thank Magnum K9, of Sturgis, for their steadfast support of our ESA Program, Kevin and Rachel for trusting all of us for our assistance in this process, and we would like to wish Birdie (ESA) much happiness with her new family," said Van Buren County Veterans Services Director David Krzycki. He concluded, "We would just like to add please let veterans in our community know that we will fight for all the benefits they have earned and to please stop by our office. A special thanks goes out to our County Commissioners and County Administration for allowing us to serve our community."

Photo courtesy/Van Buren County Veterans Services

Paw Paw Winery building damaged in March 30 rain and high windstorm



St. Julian Winery's Paw Paw tasting room was closed Monday, March 31, following Sunday, March 30, heavy rain and high winds that took a portion of the roof off the building, resulting in flooding. The tasting room has since reopened for business.

Photos courtesy/St. Julian Winery

Lawrence Alumni Association contributes funds toward scoreboards

Lawrence Public Schools recently updated two scoreboards, from bulb to state-of-the-art LED boards. The new scoreboards were made possible, in part, by a donation from the Lawrene Alumni Association. The scoreboards are programmable from a tablet, allowing the score keeper to be mobile. The old scoreboards, from the 1990s, were very hard to read depending on the direction of the sun, and eventually the softball scoreboard became inoperable. The new scoreboards are twice the size of the old scoreboards.

Photos courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Trailer, structure reduced to rubble by fire

A fire on Wednesday night destroyed a mobile home and adjacent residential structure that was under construction in Arlington township, Van Buren County.

Bangor Community Fire Department responded at 10:30 p.m. to 48065 38th Avenue. Mutual aid was requested from Columbia, Paw Paw and South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES).

The structures were engulfed in flames upon arrival. Water needed to be shuttled to the scene.

The two occupants of the trailer safely evacuated when they heard crackling noises and smelled smoke. They went to a neighbor's home to alert the fire department.

Two dogs in the trailer perished.

Van Buren EMS also responded. No injuries were reported.

Almena Township stolen vehicle recovered in Kalamazoo

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a stolen vehicle complaint in Almena Township. "Deputies recovered a stolen vehicle out of Kalamazoo near the scene and the stolen vehicle from our complaint was recovered in Kalamazoo. Anyone with any information is asked to call our office," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a stolen quad complaint in Decatur Township. The quad is a red, 300 Suzuki King Quad, late 80s early 90s, army star sticker on front fender, torn seat, water in one headlight, and it's a 4x4. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

"Our Office is participating in Distracted Driving Campaign put on through OHSP (Office Highway Safety Planning). Deputies will be targeting distracted drivers due to using the phone, etc. Zero tolerance is given while they are on overtime for this campaign," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a two-vehicle PDA (personal damage accident) in Antwerp Township. Prior to arrival, one driver left the scene and pulled into a private driveway down the road. Deputies were able to locate the vehicle and driver. After the investigation was complete, the driver was lodged for operating under the influence of alcohol.

Uniform Response responded to the Village of Lawrence for an unknown fire by the Old Fifth Third Bank. Deputies found a Molotov cocktail that had embers and ash coming from it in the parking lot. They were unable to locate anyone. If anyone has any information on it, they are asked to call the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office at (269) 657-3101.

Uniform Response handled an indecent exposure at the Dollar General store in Geneva Township. It was found that an unknown male paid for some food, flashed himself to the clerk, then left in an unknown direction of travel. It is also unknown if the suspect was on foot or drove there. It is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office at (269) 657-3101.

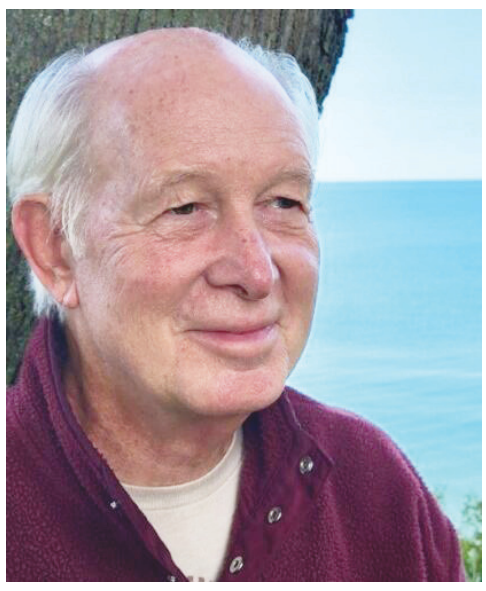
Uniform Response handled an MDOP (malicious destruction of property) in Keeler Township. Deputies were able to ID three juvenile suspects believed to be involved. The juveniles were throwing metal pipes through the victim's windows.

"Uniform Response and Dispatch had a busy week due to the weather. They handled many trees down, powerlines down in the roadway, a barn fire which was possibly caused by a lightning strike (assisting the fire departments), etc.," said Sheriff Abbott.

The new Seat Belt Restraint Law went into effect this past week. "If you have children or will have them riding in your vehicle and are not familiar with the new requirements, be sure to read the new updates," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I would like to thank the community and media for respecting the wishes of the Amish family and Amish community on giving them their privacy from the tragic accident," said Sheriff Abbott.

Former South Haven Mayor brings his poetry to Scott Club



By James Windell

Timothy Horan, formerly the mayor of South Haven, will read his poetry at the Scott Club on April 15, 2025.

"I have a collection of poems that I've written which I call "Awakening Meditations in Poetry," Horan said in a recent interview. "I will be sharing two of my poems and one will be the poem I call 'Where Do We Go from Here?'"

While Horan said that he hadn't quite decided on the other poem he will be reading, he explained that his poems speak to the moment of time that we're in. "With all of the turmoil and the anguish that a lot of people are feeling about their government," he said, "it's important to ask what our future is beyond this moment."

Timothy Horan is a South Haven native who after graduating from South Haven High School lived in other parts of the country for several decades. As he was involved in other careers, he didn't always have the time to write poetry.

"Retirement has allowed me the luxury of calling myself a poet," he said. "I'm 74 and I've written ever since I was a child in elementary school, and poetry seemed to be a natural medium for me. But I guess as for a lot of people when you pursue a career or careers interests like poetry become secondary. But I was determined that once I finally retired, I would dedicate serious time to expressing myself through poetry."

His background and multiple careers allows him to come at his poems from a variety of perspectives. "I have a Master's Degree in Consciousness Studies from John F. Kennedy University in the San Francisco Bay Area," he said in talking about his various endeavors. "I studied psychology, philosophy, Eastern and Western religions, Native American spirituality, Celtic spirituality and other such things. Then I spent more than 20 years as an Executive Director for five Native American Tribes housing authorities in the west, where I was able to get a more grounded perspective in the Native American approach to spirituality and the environment."

In addition, Horan has been a teacher, a member of the South Haven City Council and Mayor of South Haven from 1978 to 1984. He says that he is "big on social justice and I want to see humanity progress and evolve and to do better, be better."

Horan said that he hopes his poems resonate with people. "A lot of what I say will be open to interpretation – which is pretty standard for poetry," he said. "I think my messages are timely because they are all about this moment in which we find ourselves as a human civilization and what we want for ourselves."

The South Haven Scott Club, an all-volunteer organization that presents bimonthly arts and cultural programs, is located at 652 Phoenix Street, South Haven.

Timothy Horan will present "Awakening Mediations in Poetry" on Tuesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm. There is no charge for admission. For a Zoom link for a program or more information about Scott Club, email info@scottclub.org

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SPORTS

Newberry has impressive basketball season for Gobles

Aden Newberry had a strong basketball season for Gobles.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — What a basketball season it was for Gobles' standout Aden Newberry.

He was a junior in his third season and said it was his best year of the three.

"I improved my game statistically," Newberry said. "On the court, everything improved. Definitely it was a year of maturity, learning how to lead the team a little bit better and learn how to face adversity better."

Newberry was a small forward-shooting guard for Gobles. He was at 11 points and nine boards a game.

His best game was 19 points against Black River. The key "was pushing the pace and taking smart shots," he said, "and getting to the free-throw line and knocking those shots down too."

Gobles finished with a 12-9 record, and "as a team came together a lot, more than we did last year," Newbery said. "We took a big step. There's definitely room to improve."

Newberry said a major highlight came against Delton Kellogg early in the year in a 44-33 win.

"It was one of our first challenges we faced and came over," he said.

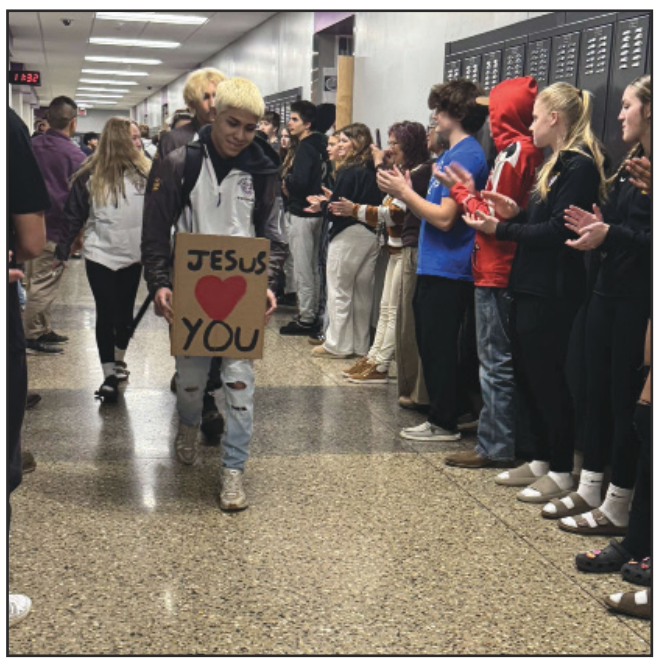
On the court, Newberry said his strengths are "rebounding, and I can score when needed. I'd say mid-range area is from where I score most of my points."

The key on defense "is just talking a lot and knowing we have each other's backs," Newberry said. "When we do that we know we're a pretty good team."

Looking at next season, "we only lost one senior and we're returning mostly everybody," Newberry said. "We're staying basically the same."

Newberry is only in basketball and plays it a lot during the offseason.

Garcia finishes strong career



Jose Garcia of South Haven holds a witnessing sign during the school send off for wrestlers going to the state meet last month.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN —Jose Garcia wrapped up his high school career last month as a state placer, finishing eighth place in Division 3 at 126 pounds.

"Jose finished this season with a record of 43-9," coach Brad Adamson said. "His career record was 95-45 after being out most of his sophomore year due to injury. He amassed an impressive 115 takedowns in his senior campaign and had 225 over his career.Jose was also a two time conference place winner for the Rams, finishing as a conference champion in 2025."

Adamson had a 43-9 record and wrapped 14 years in wrestling. He said taking first at the SAC meet was a highlight along with placing eighth at the state finals, plus getting major decisions and technical falls over opponents. He said he might try some MMA action in the future.

"In wrestling you get what you work for," Garcia said.

Gobles senior cheerleader has successful career

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOLBES — Gobles competitive cheerleader Lillianne Ashbrook had a strong senior season for the Tigers It was her fourth varsity season. She was a competitive cheerleader seven years overall.

It was also her most enjoyable season. A major highlight was placing fourth in the league.

Ashbrook was usually either a main base or a side base for Gobles. The key to success she said, was "definitely teamwork and being able to work with your other base," Ashbrook said. She felt she got better every year.

"I was always a base for the most part," she said. "If I needed to be, I could also be a backstop."

A fourth place finish in the final meet was perhaps the teams best peformance although the team also got second place at Gull Lake.

Ashbrook indicated Round 2 was perhaps the team's best round.

"Everybody has to do the same thing," she said. "It's easy to make sure you're all on the same track."

Round 3 with the stunts was perhaps the most challenging round, Ashbrook indicated.

"I enjoyed the experience and forming a bond with my girls on the team," she said.

Cheer was her only sport.

"It's a lot more teamwork than most of the other sports," she said. "We have to do three rounds. We have

no subs. Once you're in, you're in."

The objective in the three rounds is as follows:

Round 1: Cheerleaders show off their jumping skills and ability to choreograph motions.

Round 2: Cheerleaders perform a precision drill, tumbling, jumping and flexibility.

Round 3: Cheerleaders perform stunts.

South Haven senior wrestler closes fabulous career

South Haven wrestler Jocelyn Saucedo stands with from left, coaches Adam Bastow, Brad Adamson and Chris Woodall.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Jocelyn Saucedo enjoyed quite a girls wrestling career at South Haven.

She wrapped up her high school wrestling career last month as a three time state qualifier, two-time placer, finishing fifth in 2024 and third in 2025 in the 110 pound girls division. Her third place finish this year puts her as the highest girls state placer South Haven has had, and is the highest overall placer since 2008.

"Jocelyn finished this season with a record of 39-13 (28-4 against girls)," coach Brad Adamson said. "She amassed an impressive 108-43 overall record through three years as a varsity wrestler, against both boys and girls. 77 of those wins came by way of fall. She is a two time team captain and two time conference place winner for the Rams, finishing as a conference champion in 2025."

Saucedo said winning against boys opponents in her three years was a major highlight.

"I worked hard for three yers and made it so far in wrestling," she said. "My favorite match would be this year at a meet and I was wrestling a boy from Constantine 113 pounds. I ended up losing the match by points. But wrestling boys made me realize my strength and how much I overpowered them even if it was a girl. It just shows a lot of people that girls can beat boys and even in the wrestling girls can still win.

"I get pretty nervous when I wrestle no matter who I am wrestling but no matter what, I always pull through. Every mach I try to let my opponent get me down and from there I work my moves. I think letting my opponent get the first takedowns is the best way to wrestle since it gives me a chance to study what takedowns and tips moves they enjoy to use."

She will very much miss the sport.

"The most thing I will miss about wrestling is my team, they are like a second family," Saucedo said. "My coaches I had throughout the years they helped me exceed in many of my goals. I will moss competition. I was a totally different person not he mat. I am a feeling, kind and loving person but I felt different while wrestling.

"I wanna think everyone that's supported me throughout the year. I had a very strong connection and relationship with everyone on the team They called me the heart and soul of the team and it made me feel really special and made me realize how much I was loved."

South Haven track team looks strong

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven track and field coach Trevor Smiley is looking forward to the 2025 season

The coaching staff has had some changes this year. Head coach is Trevor Smiley. Assistant coaches are Lindsay DeLorme, Wendy Spencer, Mara Givhan and Ashton Fields.

The volunteer staff consists of Amira Givhan, Ryan Newberry, Ben Holt, Mike Hodge, Tamara Rigozzi andMark Lewis.

The 2024 SH track and field sent two student-athletes to the state meet; Xavion Harrington (shot put and discus) and Cianna Cox (high jump).

South Haven track lost several key seniors to graduation namely Dayshaunna Crowley (first, 100-meter Shamrock Invitational and Kellogg CC for BB), Cianna Cox (high jump at LCC), Xavion Harrington (shot put/Discus attending GVSU.

Several athletes that could be key to SH success this year include:

•Enzo Abdul-Haqq (Sr) in the 200m, 400m (School record watch), anchor for the 4x2 and 4x4.

•Gianna Bell (Sr) in the 100m and 200m

•Grayson Knox (Jr) Pole vault

•Madisyn Lapinski (So) 800m

•Zander Duncan (So) 100m, 200m, 4x1 and 4x2

•August Zoet (Jr) Long Jump

"One of the biggest expectations I have for the team this year is for each individual to give their best effort throughout the entirety of the season," Smiley said. "Secondly it is hoped the best athletes demonstrate the highest resolve, effort and achievement when called upon.

"The team's singular mindset is to strive for excellence. Our coaching collective is extremely competitive and we are tasked with challenging all track and field student-athletes to their best."

Smiley said "some things the team needs to work on include creating a track 'team' versus track 'club' culture...meaning making track and field in-season and off-season training a priority."

The conference is: "broad and wide with 19 members including Allegan, Black River Holland, Bridgman, Coloma, Constantine, Delton-Kellogg, Fennville, Galesburg, Gobles, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic, Kalamazoo Christian, Lawton, Martin, Parchment, Saugatuck, Schoolcraft, and Watervliet.

"I imagine that Saugatuck, Schoolcraft, Bridgman, Watervliet and K-Christian will maintain their standards. South Haven certainly hopes to be considered for some recognition by the end."

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Mattawan baseball team splits

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN —- Mattawan's varsity baseball team played this past Saturday at Novi vs Walled Lake Central and Novi. Mattawan tied WLC 7-7 and lost to Novi 2-0.

In Game 1 vs WLC:

Jake Vrba led the offense with two hits (a double and a single), and two RBIs in the first game on Saturday. Max Vanantwerp, Ben Koprolces, and Preston Shackelford also added hits for the Wildcats.

On the mound, Brody Houseman threw a strong three innings, striking out four guys, allowing no runs and two hits.

In Game 2 vs Novi Mattawan was held to three hits, Coleton Strong, Jake Vrba and Ben Koprolces had the lone hits for the Wildcats.

Liam Walsh and Max Vanantwerp both threw well allowing only two runs and four hits, but Mattawan could not string anything together and was shut out.

Mattawan is scheduled to host Berrien Springs on April 9 and will play at Three Rivers on April 10 and at Portage Northern on April 12.

The Mattawan softball team will be at home with Three Rivers on April 10 and home on April 15 with Portage Central.

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SPORTS

Bangor sophomore is talented in three sports

Alexis Wisniewski was a sophomore this season for Bangor.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR - Sophomore Alexis Wisniewski had another strong season at varsity basketball for Bangor this year.

As a freshman, "I remember it was a big change," she said. "Especially because I didn't play my eighth grade year. It was a big difference."

She had decided as an eighth grader to take a break but decided to come back.

"I wanted to play with the seniors," she said. "I feel I made a lot of improvement (this year). My freshman year, I felt I was very slow. I didn't understand the game as well. But now I see how things work."

There have been open gyms and camps for basketball players. Wisniewski, a shooting guard, was a productive scorer throughout the season. She had 24 points against Comstock as a season high. "It was mostly from threes," Wisniewski said. "I only scored three points in the first half. After halftime, I really came out stronger and more mentally prepared.

"We tied at halftime. Seeing that pushed me more to want to score."

The key to being a good 3-point shooter, Wisniewski said, is "consistency and just working on straight shooting."

Her second best shot came off of backdoor cuts.

Wisniewksi said she scored over double digits most of her games.

Bangor had one of its more successful seasons with a 9-13 record. It came, Wisniewski said, "from learning and more communication."

She's looking forward to next season.

"I think it's going to be a great year," she said. "I think it will be a good year to build especially with the younger kids."

Wisniewski is also in softball and volleyball. She's a catcher for softball.

"This year we're going to be really good," she said. "We have a lot of returning players. We're excited to get this season started."

She said she's been a catcher her entire life. "I've always wanted to play there and I just like it," Wisniewski said.

She batted around .300 last season.

Gobles sophomore looks ahead

Carter Crippin had a strong shooting season for Gobles.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Carter Crippin was a sophomore at Gobles this season and had a fine experience.

"We lost in the first round of districts but the team we lost to (Kalamazoo Christian) wound up winning districts and went to the regional finals," Crippin said. "Our playoff run was greater last year but our regular season was better this year."

Crippin said his role last year was to catch the ball and shoot threes.

"This year, I was point guard more than just catching and shooting the ball," he said. "I was there to play good defense."

Crippin said he shot 40 percent from behind the 3-point line. "The team as finding me when I was hot," he said. "Once I hit that first shot, I just catch fire."

His highest single game total was 25 points against Martin. "My first shot of the night was a 3-pointer," he recalled. "I actually missed it but after the very first shot, it was just perfect and I was getting to the bucket easily. I caught fire at the end too."

The win over Fennville might have been the best win of the year, Crippin said.

"I think they were projected to beat us," he said.

As for next season, "I think we'll have a way greater run," Crippin said. "We only lost one senior. I'll be a junior. I think we can make a good run."

Basketball is his only sport. He plays in AAU basketball for Strictly Skills out of Mattawan, a team he has played with four seasons.

"I would say my lateral quickness needs to be better," Crippin said when asked what he might focus on during the summer.

Gobles girls track team expects another huge season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles girls track and field coach Andy Wood had a strong SAC Lakeshore team a year ago and is looking forward to the 2025 campaign.

Highlights from the 2024 season included setting five School records and breaking the old Division 4 state meet record in the 4x100 relay with a time of 50.18 seconds. These records were the 200 neter dash set by Daisy Estrada, 400-neter dash set by Madison Cooley, the 3200 meter run set by Libby Smith, the 4x100 relay of Deanna Wood, Daisy Estrada, Liz Smith, and Aly Tripp, and the 4x200 relay of Deanna Wood, Daisy Estrada, Abby Pattison, and Aly Tripp.

"One key graduate from last season is Deanna Wood who had been the lead off leg in all three sprint relays for the past three seasons where she brought home six state medals," Wood said. "She was also a hurdler when necessary and always willing to run wherever she was needed. Another key graduate was Aly Trip who ran the anchor leg on both the 4x100 and 4x200 relays where she was a three-time state placer and was also a top hurdler and pole vaulter for us.

"Abby Pattison was an exchange student from Australia who was a 200 and 400 specialist for us last year. Other Key graduates were Olivia Sweet, Claire Bodin, and Charlotte Zantello who were all throwers for us."

Senior Zoie Wood will be a team captain and leader of the stacked distance squad who return all of their state placers from last season.

"She is a four-time state qualifier with two each in the 4x400 and 4x800. Zoie is also shooting to break the school record in the pole vault this season," Wood said. "Junior Madison Cooley looks to add to her state medal count after placing in the 400 as a freshman and setting the school record in that event last year. Sophomore Libby Smith will look to add on to her phenomenal freshman campaign where she set a school record in the 3,200 meter run and came home with three medals from the state meet. She hopes to also take down the 1600 meter school record this season.

"Sophomore Lauren Shaffer was our third leading scorer last season as an 800 and 1,600 meter specialist. These ladies look to add another state medal and school record in the 4x800 relay team to improve on their sixth place finish at the state meet last season. Another sophomore distance star to watch out for is Ava DeYoung who couldn't complete due to injury last season."

On the sprinting side, Gobles has sophomore Daisy Estrada who set three school records last season as a freshman in the 200, 4x100 and 4x200 relays. "She is looking to add a couple more this season and return to state in the sprint relays," Wood said. 'Liz Smith has been a 3 year state placer in the 4x100 relay. She has also been a state placer in the 4x200 relay and a state qualifier in the long jump. She hopes to make it four state medals in a row in the 4x100 relay and add another 4x200 one as well.

"Sasha Doll has been a key member of the state qualifying relay teams the past two seasons when running as an alternate at the regionals. Sasha is a three-time regional medal winner in the 100 hurdles and a state placer in the high jump. She is looking to set the school record in the 100 hurdles this season and once again be a state qualifier in the high jump. Rounding out the sprinting squad is Olivia Platt who was a regular member of the 4x100 last season and a school record holder for a couple of weeks before it was re-broken."

The Lady Tigers are expecting great things this season and look to add to last season's success.

"One of our team's strengths is encouraging one another and cheering on their teammates at events," Wood said. "We look to be in the running for a conference, regional, and MITCA team state championship this season. We were runner up at the team state meet last season to Hillsdale Academy. We need to improve in our throwing squad and we have a couple of newcomers in that area that are looking to do just that.z'

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VIEWPOINT

Measles comeback? Stop the hysteria

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

I keep receiving emails from public health officials about the threat of measles. Just like a week ago, I read a release that announced two cases of measles had been diagnosed in Michigan. I had thought measles were a thing of the past and was surprised to hear that they had made a return.

I know measles are highly contagious and can turn into pneumonia for children under five. Two children under 5 died supposedly of measles a week ago in Texas. I also understand that to enroll in most pre-school or any public school you must be vaccinated against measles and chicken pox. I think these vaccines for young children are a good thing.

Back in the day that wasn't the case. When I was growing up, parents for the most part weren't upset if you contracted measles or chicken pox. In fact, many wanted their children to contract the disease so that once you had it, you were immune from it for the rest of your life. Another thought at that time was the older you contracted the virus, the more it would affect you.

The thought was the same with tonsilitis. You were encouraged to have your tonsils pulled early in life, because later it could be quite painful and bothersome. That's what happened to me. My tonsils had to be pulled when I was sixteen, and I'm telling you I didn't recover for several weeks. In fact, I lost 20 pounds in the process.

Myself and my brother and sisters all had measles and chicken pox, and even mumps. Our parents did the responsible thing by keeping us out of school for a week or so. I remember being very bored. I wasn't necessarily sick or in pain, but I had been diagnosed, so school was not an option.

I don't know anyone who encountered complications, despite all my friends and family contracting the virus. But I guess back then was different. We weren't as cautious or afraid of viruses like today's parents and children.

And of course, we didn't have the vaccine which is now required so it is now virtually impossible to get measles, or so I thought. If you listen to public health gurus it is making a comeback- a whole two cases have been diagnosed in Michigan and we must all take preventative steps.

Sorry I'm not buying it, and I know I will catch hell from the medical community for saying it. But as COVID proved, and now Bird Flu, we don't need public hysteria over the latest and greatest virus. They will always come along, and may be a problem for unhealthy individuals, but for most of us, we needn't be concerned.

I would much prefer we concentrate as a people to become healthier. Eating right and partaking in some form of exercise will go a long way in combatting viruses. We subject our children to a wide array of pills to combat this or that. Those medications can help in moderation, but Pfizer and other big Pharma companies, have made them a part of our daily routine. We must become healthier and viruses like measles will not be a concern.

Eat healthy, exercise, and stop taking pills. That's the recipe for a winning health portfolio.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

I keep hearing rumors about the Administration selling off the U.S. Post Office as another cost-cutting measure. Maybe it is true; maybe not; maybe the idea is being floated to see what our reaction will be.

I think it is goofy for a lot of reasons. For one, my fa-ther preached the gospel of never selling capital assets or invading principle. Those two are meant to earn more money for the owner, and, in turn, can be passed down to the next generation.

He also believed you should never sell land. Make the land work and provide an income you, then pass it on to the kids. His exception to this practice was when he bought a farm or business specifically as a short-term investment.

We saw what happened in Chicago when the city sold off some of its capital assets to take care of a budget shortfall. It sold the rights to collect money from parking meters and some toll roads.

It took care of the city's budget problems for a while, but then the government went through its windfall and was worse off than before.

All in all, selling off the USPS doesn't make long-term financial sense. To be sure, it will pay off some long-term debts and raise money, but in no time it will be gone with little to show for it.

The other problem with selling the USPS to a private company is that the mail will no longer be under control of government, but instead a board of directors whose primary focus is to make money for investors and shareholders. When Chicago leased the toll roads, the in-vestors immediately jacked up prices.

It will be similar to what we see with many newspapers. West Michigan had several big- and mid-sized inde-pendently-owned daily pa-pers. One by one, many were bought by investors. So were national papers like the Chi-cago Tribune.

Almost instantly, the pa-pers' quality noticeably dete-riorated. More and more articles were written by na-tional or regional news ser-vices such as MLive.

These syndicated articles replaced the platoons of re-porters and photographers who would chase down sto-ries, often of local interest. Staffs shrunk to a skeleton crew. That is not good for a community or region. I ad-mire and appreciate publish-er Mike Wilcox and his son Jordan for working to keep local weekly newspapers viable.

Should the USPS be sold, contracts with long-service employees will be renegotiat-ed, other will be bought out, and hard-earned benefits such as insurance and pen-sions will be whittled away.

All of that plus the initial outlay to buy the entire op-eration will be expensive. The owners will want to re-coup their losses and show a profit.

If this goes through, guess who'll be stuck for the tab? My guess is it won't be the billionaire oligarchs but you and me, same as always.

In the nicest of terms, the new company will explain its efficiency plans to reduce services, hours and branches. Then the new owner will raise the price of stamps.

One reason the USPS is in deep barnyard organic fi-nancial fertilizer is that we are sending less first class mail than we did before the Internet. As one employee explained it, "People aren't sending as much mail, so we have to keep raising the cost of stamps." Many of us will use the internet even more, and the price of stamps will keep rising.

More worrisome than that is right now, when we mail a letter, it is a violation of fed-eral law for anyone to tam-per with it, say open your envelope and go on a snoop-ing expedition. No one gets to do that, especially USPS employees, without a court order and warrant to look for specific contents.

There are exceptions, of course, most notably at jails and prisons. During wartime, censorship of soldier's mail was implemented to protect vital information.

During World War I there was serious discussion in upper levels of government on how to handle the Zim-merman telegram from Germany to the President of Mexico. The British got hold of the document, hesitated to open it, then read the letter and decided to snitch to Pres-ident Wilson about the con-tents. Germany was plotting with the President of Mexico to invade the US in return for a hefty payoff.

However, if the USPS is sold, the new private owner can make its own rules and privacy might become even more an anachronism. In dictatorships, anyone writing or receiving mail that con-tains a message opposite to the government's official line is in serious jeopardy.

My father taught some-thing else that ties in with the possibility of selling the USPS. He said it takes mon-ey to make money, and you must invest in yourself be-cause the older you get the harder you have to work to look good. Do not be so cheap that you neglect to spend money on yourself that will help you make more money.

That same principle applies to the federal government. I am all in favor of reducing stupid expenses and waste, but not important ones. It takes a lot of money to have a good government that does good by its people. Support for the elderly, those who are disabled, for schools and hospitals are not merely "en-titlements — it is how we care for our fellow citizens.

That includes the post of-fice. If we want a good coun-try, it will take some of our hard-earned cash to pay for it.

That's the way this country has always operated. We didn't look for the cheapest way to build up our nation. On the frontier, pioneer fami-lies taxed themselves to build one-room schools and hire the teachers. The same thing happened when a small community needed what became known as a "cottage hospital" or almost anything else. Our predecessors worked together and looked forward.

We could use more of their spirit today. Perhaps, before someone hammers a For Sale sign in front of the post office, our best and brightest minds should look at how it can be reformed and im-proved.

Reform, not revolution or smashing things with a hammer, is how we as indi-viduals and a country move forward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONCERNS ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY READINESS

Dear Editor:

There are many reasons why I am not going to apologize for voting for Donald Trump and for a straight Republican Party ticket, and recent letters to this editor denouncing the Trumpster and his agenda have only confirmed my choices. The ad hominem vilification, the bawled-faced [sic] hatred and the violent street theater which are currently the Left's only ways to respond, say it all. The Left obviously wants America to fail so that Socialism/ Communism can be called upon to pretend to solve all of our real and imagined problems by substituting today's relative liberty for tomorrow's tyranny.

The list of the Left's failures under the leaking umbrella of a once respectable Democrat Party are too numerous to completely relate here. The irrationality of supporting biologic men in women's locker rooms and on their teams would be enough, and I could stop there, but anyone with an ounce of grey matter would have to agree that the sell-out—by the duplicitous progressive feminist harpies to not only tolerate but to encourage this anti-woman, anti-biology and anti-fair play policy—the sell-out tells us all we need to know about the society- and culture-destroying goals of the Left. Add to this the near silence of cowardly and cowed fathers of their daughters—who just want to compete on a level playing field, and who want to shower in private—and what we are seeing is the insidious influence of the communist strategy to destroy families.

My biggest concern with this destructive agenda, however, is linked to the above insanity in this way: WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO OUR MILITARY? The up-is-down thinking which wants us to believe that a man can fairly participate in women's sports has permeated the one organization which must be pumped with the exclusively male hormone, testosterone, and the consequent masculine behavior in order to be successful. Here is where I appreciate the Trump agenda most of all. SecDef Pete Hegseth has the vision, the practical experience and the call to reverse the fatal trend that has weakened our ability to defend our country against countless bad guys all intent on winning the next war should we have to fight one.

Make no mistake that as a former military professional with over 22 years of service, the very last desire of mine was to actually have to trade bullets with the enemy. Fortunately, for most of my service, deterrence was the norm—as long as we were strong, the bad guys did not attempt to challenge our strength because of our readiness and willingness to return fire. Sadly, when that resolve was missing, or when our guard was down, or when our intelligence was weak, bad guys took advantage of the weaknesses, and unfortunately, we have lost many mostly small battles. The sneak attack on 9/11 is just one example. Shame on our intelligence agencies and shame on our broken visa and immigration systems. Shame on our complacency. We must repair our damaged defenses, and a good place to start is with military MANpower.

Bill Clinton accelerated the demise of the military when soon after he became president he declared that the armed forces (within which he never served) should accept openly homosexual members. The outrage at the time forced General Colin Powel to propose the "don't ask, don't tell" policy which defused the valid disapproving response by men who were responsible for maintaining unit cohesiveness and troop morale. But the progressive foot was in the door. Soon, not only were openly gay men allowed to serve, but women were slowly but surely moved into combat support and combat roles.

Young heterosexual men, the most reliable backbone and muscle of militaries since time immemorial, were forced to not only watch as their platoons' capabilities diminished, but they were forced to believe that all soldiers were equal while at the same time the standards for enlistment, and more important, combat roles were diluted to allow a poorer performing individual to meet promotion criteria. Can't carry a 60 pound ruck and gear on a ten mile hike? OK, carry a 30 pound ruck on a 5 mile hike to make 100%. And reduce the standards for push-ups and sit-ups and tolerate increased body weight while we are at it.....

Not enough social engineering and team experimentation for you? Howsabout we have the troops attend DIE [sic] and CRT and sexual harassment classes and classes labeling pro-life advocates as "domestic terrorists"? That valuable training time should have gone to building bigger muscles and to developing marksmanship and war fighting skills. The tinkering did not even end there because the commies were still not confident that they had our military on its heals, so our troops were forced to accept the so-called transgendered: confused, dysphoric and substandard medical and mental experiments which require massive amounts of time-off, surgical interventions, mental counseling, hormone injections and handholding while someone in their (did I get that pronoun right?) unit must step up and fill in while that occurs.

Still think that diversity is a strength? Then ask your self why all men's professional sports teams do not practice DEI. Could it be that they are all about winning? Only the most brainwashed or the most hypocritical amongst us can justify that only the most talented should compete in sports while we must accept less than the best warfighters. Does diversity and inclusion have any place in maintaining a strong national defense? Yes, but only a diversity of weapons and tactics TO WIN THE WARS, or to avoid war because the enemy knows he is out-gunned. Perhaps if there are still ERA advocates who want women drafted and fighting at the front, perhaps we should construct all female platoons given specialized combat missions and leave the heavy lifting to men.

I would like to continue my observations for many more paragraphs to address other readiness issues that trouble me, but the ink is running out for now. Consider just a few concerns that should be yours, too: we are still below a 300 ship Navy, we allow tax dollars to be spent sending pregnant troops to abortion-providing states to kill their inconvenient babies, we have not yet held to account any of the generals responsible for the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, we are still relying upon Chinese parts to keep our weapon systems ready, and the Pentagon has not passed an audit in years.

Some good news? Recruiting is back up again after too many years of not meeting goals and lowering enlistment standards. Give credit to President Trump and his vision of reestablishing our military as a career path that all parents will be proud for their sons to pursue. God Bless America.

Jack Bley
LTC, USA ret

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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Money & Savings

Thursday, April 17
6:30 pm-7:30 am
ADULTS: Heartbreak Book Club
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Black History Leadership Society honors Reverend E. T. Buck

Presenting Reverend Buck with a plaque is Vice-president, Gail Patterson-Gladney, President Dorothy Sherrod, Juanita Cunningham, Donna Berry Mackey, Susie Whitmore, Lola Wilson, Pastor Anthonette Cox, and Phyllis Tyler.

The Black History Leadership Society honored Reverend E. T. Buck during Black History Month. He received the honor for his years of dedicated service in his church, The Spiritual Church of Christ; his community service with our youth; and his work with preschoolers at the Tri-County Head Start for the past 17 years. Reverend Buck will retire this year. He will be 100 years young this month!

Reverend Buck was born in Brandywine, Mississippi, to his lovely parents, Israel Buck and Hattie Spencer Buck. He was raised alongside his four brothers and five sisters.

He accepted his calling to preach the Gospel in 1979 and has since remained a steadfast spiritual leader, inspiring countless individuals with his wisdom, faith and guidance.

Besides receiving the Black History Leadership Society award, Reverend Buck has been recognized with many other awards, including the Older Adult Volunteer of the Year Award from the Region 4 Area Agency on Aging and the Governor's service award. Governor Gretchen Whitmer presented him the award on May 21st, 2024.

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I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

World Premier of Composition featured at South Shore Concert Band

Dale Reuss

By James Windell

When the South Shore Concert Band takes the stage at the Jenkins Theatre at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor on April 13, 2025, it will be the first time in their 33-year history they will be performing a brand new commissioned composition.

Not only will the community band be playing a new work, they will be conducted for this world premier by its composer, Rossano Galante.

South Shore Concert Band Director Dale Reuss was excited to talk about this concert. "The title of the concert is Tetelestai: Images of the Sonrise," he said in a recent interview. "Tetelestai is a Greek word which means It is finished. Those were Christ's last words."

Although Reuss said that the idea behind this program was to do an Easter concert, he emphasized that it will not be a religious presentation. "What I've done here is select music where composers from the Baroque period up to the modern era have used stories that are biblically-based for their music."

In addition to the premier of the Galante piece, the band will also perform "Abram's Pursuit," a composition from 1998 by David Holsinger. "It comes from a Biblical story and is one of the most exciting pieces of music you will ever hear," Reuss said.

Other works performed include "When you Believe," a song made for the 1998 DreamWorks musical animated feature "The Prince of Egypt," and "Psalm 46," which is a concert band arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

Joining the band for some songs will be vocalists Jeffery Whittaker and Rebecca Derbas-Selvidge, both of whom are professional singers. For the premier of "Tetelestai: Images of the Sonrise," Galante will be coming from Los Angeles to conduct the band.

Galante has served as orchestrator for over 75 studio films including "Rambo: Last Blood," "Charlie's Angles," "The Mummy," "Ben Hur," "Trouble with the Curve," and many others. Reuss adds that Galante has written over 70 concert level pieces.

"We commissioned Mr. Galante a couple of years ago to work on this for us," Reuss explains. "We used funds from about a half-dozen memorial contributions that were made from band members and their supporters who had passed away. When we were starting to get those contributions, I was thinking maybe we should just hold on to those funds and use them for a commission at some point to honor those individuals."

Reuss and his wife, Cindy, founded the South Shore Concert Band in 1992. At that time, Reuss was a band director and teacher for Bridgman Schools. He had played trumpet in a community concert band as a teenager until he went to college. "After I graduated, I got involved in my career and my family life, and the idea of playing in a community band took a backseat, although I did play with a municipal band in St. Joseph for a couple of seasons," he says.

After about 20 years went by, Reuss began to hear from people that it would be nice to play in a band. "I took that idea to Cindy because forming a community band was going to cost a lot of time," he recalls. "I wanted to make sure she was onboard with me."

Cindy had been a pianist, but she began to work on playing the mallets for percussion. "Together, we were able to go forward as partners to make this band happen,"

He says that he got some assistance from Bernie Kuschel, the Benton Harbor Band Director and a mentor for Reuss. "Bernie told me this area needed a community band for the public," he says. "So, Bernie helped me get the South Shore Concert Band going."

The band membership has grown over the years to include members from northern Indiana as well as other southwest Michigan counties, including South Haven. Membership includes a broad range of professional careers – retired band teachers, current teachers, engineers, accountants, social workers, computer consultants – all playing together to share their common passion for music.

The band provides free concerts at various locations in southwest Michigan during the year, and their concerts include Winter and Spring concerts at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center.

Reuss said he has opened up the rehearsal with Rossano Galante to music instructors and serious musical students on Saturday, April 12 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm in Grand Upton Hall on the Lake Michigan College campus in Benton Harbor.

The Spring Concert featuring the work of Galante, will be on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm at the Mendel Center Jenkins Theatre at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor. There is no admission charge and the concert is sponsored by Woodhams Ford in South Haven and Henry's Hamburgers.

Maritime Museum hosts lecture on recovering World War II Tuskegee airplane

MOODY PHOTO MICHIGAN MARITIME MUSEUM APRIL 2025

By James Windell

Continuing their yearlong programmatic series Whispers Across the Water, the Michigan Maritime Museum will host guest presenter Wayne Lusardi on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm.

Lusardi, Michigan's State Maritime Archaeologist, will share his experiences helping to recover a World War II Tuskegee airplane that crashed into Lake Huron in 1944 in a presentation entitled Lake Huron Red Tails: Recovering a World War II Tuskegee Airplane.

"In our Whispers across the Water programs, we're showcasing and celebrating contributions from minority communities and underrepresented communities," says Ashley Deming, Director of Education & Programs for the Michigan Maritime Museum. "The Tuskegee Airmen are certainly part of the minority community, but that ties into a bigger picture of Michigan's role during World War II and role of African Americans during the war."

What many people don't realize is that the Tuskegee Airmen trained in Michigan at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In 1944 a Bell P39 Airacobra flown by Tuskegee airman Lieutenant Frank Moody crashed into the lake during a training mission. The pilot was killed, and the aircraft was lost until divers discovered the wrecked airplane in 2014.

Since 2015, Wayne Lusardi has been leading expeditions to archaeologically document the airplane wreck in Lake Huron. Utilizing the skills and experiences of various organizations including law enforcement agencies, the State of Michigan, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and members of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers and Diving with a Purpose, Lusardi organized and led a team that was able to document most of the scattered pieces of the wrecked aircraft. Following documentation, Lusardi has been actively working with a variety of partners to recover, conserve and exhibit the aircraft in Detroit.

"This is a truly inspiring project from both an historical and scientific perspective," says Deming. "To also be able to showcase Moody's story as well as all of the people that have come together to celebrate his and other Tuskegee Airmen contributions to history is a privilege."

Wayne Lusardi received his MA degree in Maritime History and Nautical Archaeology from East Carolina University in 1998, and a BS in Anthropology from Illinois State University. Not only is he Michigan's State Maritime Archaeologist, he has been at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary since 2002, where he researches and documents the nearly 1500 shipwrecks located in the state. Lusardi is involved in all aspects of fieldwork, survey, research, education and outreach. He has an extensive background in underwater and terrestrial archaeology, artifact conservation, and material culture studies.

Previously, Lusardi was employed as an archaeological conservator for the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia and excavated the USS Monitor's turret after its recovery in 2002. He also spent four years on the Blackbeard shipwreck project in North Carolina.

Lake Huron Red Tails: Recovering a World War II Tuskegee Airplane is part of the Whispers Across the Water lecture series, which is made possible thanks to the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike & Susan Smith. Tickets for the lecture on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm are free for Museum members and $10 for non-members. Doors at the Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven , open at 6 PM. For more information about the Museum's events, visit: https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

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Palisades Restart Nuclear Licensing Board rejects all environmental, safety, and health contentions

Watchdog Coalition Vows to Appeal

On March 31, 2025, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) refused to grant a hearing on the merits for seven contentions brought by opponents of Holtec International's scheme to restart the Palisades atomic reactor on the Lake Michigan shore in southwest Michigan.

"How is the concerned public supposed to take part in these life and death decisions?!", asked Terry Lodge of Toledo, Ohio, co-counsel of the intervening environmental coalition. "We consulted experts, drew from some 30 years' understanding of the weaknesses and troubled operating history of Palisades, offered targeted criticism of the dangerous shortsightedness of the restart, but in the end, the public is completely unwelcome to participate in this uncharted scam," Lodge added.

The coalition includes Beyond Nuclear, Don't Waste Michigan, Michigan Safe Energy Future, Nuclear Energy Information Service of Chicago, and Three Mile Island Alert of Pennsylvania. The coalition's expert witnesses include Dr. Mark Z. Jacobson, environmental engineer, Stanford University professor, and world-renowned advocate for renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, as the most time- and cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate catastrophic climate change.

The coalition first petitioned to intervene and requested a hearing in December 2023, after Holtec submitted an Exemption Request to NRC for the restart, asking the agency to reverse Palisades' previous owner Entergy's certifications of permanent reactor shutdown on June 13, 2022.

However, NRC immediately told the coalition it was too soon, and besides, Exemption Requests cannot be challenged. Nonetheless, the coalition included its challenge to the Exemption Request in its broader, relaunched intervention attempt in October 2024. Now, as revealed in the March 31, 2025 ruling above, by a 2-1 split on the ASLB regarding whether the Exemption Request is "inextricably intertwined" with Holtec's four License Amendment Requests (LARs), this legal and regulatory question is now very much in play. There is even an ironic agreement between Holtec and the environmental coalition that the Exemption Request is not "inextricably intertwined" with the LARs, versus the NRC staff, which maintains it is.

The ASLB did not yet terminate the proceeding and grant Holtec approval for the unprecedented restart of the closed reactor, as the environmental coalition still has open, new and amended contentions, submitted in response to NRC's January 31, 2025 publication of an Environmental Assessment. The coalition will meet today's deadline to defend its remaining contentions before the ASLB, and has vowed to appeal the ASLB's adverse March 31 rulings to the five NRC Commissioners. If need be, appeals will be taken to federal court after that.

"We also plan to litigate against Holtec's proposed BAND-AID fixes for Palisades' dangerously degraded steam generator tubes, a self-inflicted wound due to two years of neglected maintenance," said Wally Taylor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the coalition's co-counsel.

"The extensive steam generator tube failures identified by Holtec in September 2024 were foreseeable and foreseen and entirely of Holtec's making," said Arnie Gundersen, chief engineer at Fairewinds, and a coalition expert witness. "Yet Holtec seeks permission from NRC to restart Palisades without replacing the severely damaged steam generators. Due to its lack of nuclear operating experience, Holtec damaged the steam generators and bungled the Palisades' restart, a rookie error that could lead to a meltdown. I have never been more concerned about the safety of a nuclear power plant than I am about Palisades returning to operations," Gundersen added.

On January 7, 2025, in the lead up to a major NRC-Holtec technical meeting on January 14th, watchdogged by coalition representatives and deeply concerned local residents, Gundersen published a backgrounder, "The History of Steam Generator Damage at the Holtec Palisades Nuclear Reactor."

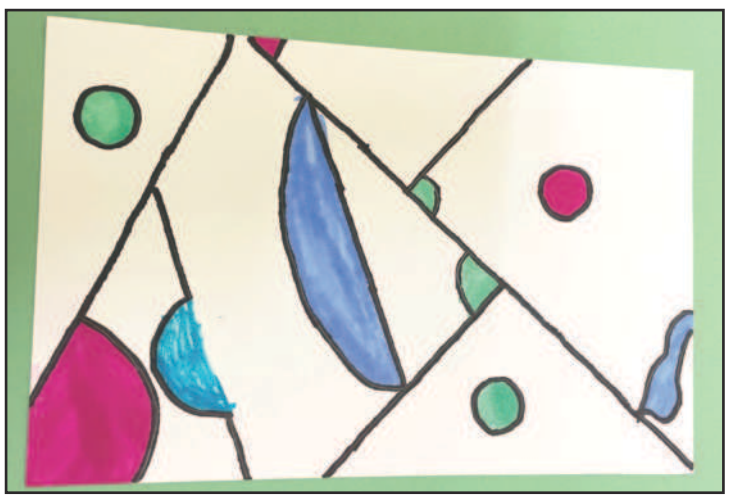
"As I have testified in these licensing proceedings, Holtec informed the U.S. Department of Energy that the Palisades steam generators were degraded and must be replaced in 2022," said Gundersen. "Instead of addressing the underlying damage from decades of operation under previous owners, and new stress corrosion cracking in the steam generators caused by Holtec's improper wet layup, Holtec said it would unplug the 600 tubes plugged about thirty years ago. Now, the firm claims the aged and rundown steam generators will last for 30 more years. During my 53 years of professional experience, I am unaware of any steam generator, with so many previously known and newly identified flaws, that has not been replaced," Gundersen added.

Palisades' previous owner, Consumers Energy, admitted to the Michigan Public Service Commission in 2006 that the already degraded steam generators needed complete replacement. However, NRC never required it, so Palisades' next owner, Entergy, never did so from 2007 to 2022. Holtec has estimated replacing the steam generators would cost $510 million, but for the past year has made clear it has no plans to do so, despite the risks.

"The Japanese Parliament concluded that the root cause of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear catastrophe of 2011 was collusion between the safety regulator, Tokyo Electric, and government officials," said Kevin Kamps, radioactive waste specialist at Beyond Nuclear based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, 35-miles downwind of Palisades. "There is such potentially catastrophic collusion in spades at Palisades, between the ASLB and NRC, Holtec, and government officials here. The entire Great Lakes region is being put at risk," Kamps added.

SOUTH HAVEN ELEMENTARY ART ON DISPLAY

Cute Frog by Cayden Pool from Bangor South Walnut



Artwork by Camden Williams from Lincoln

Xochimilco Boat by Gavin Kuhens from Bangor South Walnut

Shine Bright, Elementary School Art Exhibition will hold its opening reception at the South Haven Center for the Arts on Friday, April 11, from 5-7pm. Artists, family, friends, and community members are all invited to celebrate with refreshments, art projects, and a special door prize raffle with art-centric gifts.

The work of elementary school students (grades Kindergarten-5th) will be exhibited at the Center for the Arts, 600 Phoenix St. in South Haven, from April 5 through May 3, 2025. 3rd graders from South Haven's Maple Grove and Lincoln will be on exhibit. Northshore, St Paul's, Bangor, Covert, and Bloomingdale schools will have their artwork exhibited selected by the teachers. On the last day of our K-5th grade exhibition, Saturday, May 3 from 11am – 4pm, there will be an all-day Family Art Day here at the center. Participate in fun art activities for all ages!

This exhibition is made possible due to the hard work of art teachers Anna Walker at Northshore Elementary, Kelsey Vollrath at Covert Public Schools, Chris Measzros at Bangor Public Schools, Julie Stegman at St. Paul Lutheran School, Tanya Ebert at Maple Grove and Lincoln Elementary, and Celeste Moerman at Bloomingdale Schools.

Shine Bright is sponsored by South Haven Public Schools and made possible in part through funding from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

The South Haven Center for the Arts is free and open to the public.

Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11am–4:00pm, and Thursday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit southhavenarts.org or southhavenarts on Facebook and instagram. To contact the Center directly, email info@southhavenarts.org or call (269) 637-1041.

County Road Commission receives statewide IMPRESS award

LAWRENCE - The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) has earned statewide recognition, taking home an IMPRESS Award for Operations at the 2025 County Road Association (CRA) of Michigan Highway Conference in Lansing. The award honors VBCRC's successful transition to conducting roadside mowing operations in-house, a move that has improved efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety across Van Buren County.

For two decades, roadside mowing was outsourced to contractors due to VBCRC's limited staffing and equipment. Contractors, paid by the mile, prioritized covering more ground, often leading to a narrowing right-of-way as trees and brush encroached further each year. In 2023, the VBCRC made a transformative shift: the Board of County Road Commissioners budgeted for and purchased tractors and offset-style deck mowers, giving VBCRC staff the tools to take ownership of roadside mowing. These tractors were equipped with bucket attachments for clearing debris, as well as buddy seats to enhance hands-on staff training.

"The overall outcome of bringing roadside mowing in-house has been transformational," said Greg Brucks, Operations Director for the Van Buren County Road Commission. "Residents and Townships now enjoy safer roads thanks to well-maintained right-of-way areas, and our staff takes immense pride in this work. I must also commend our mechanic team, whose dedication to adjusting, maintaining, and repairing equipment was critical to the program's success." The VBCRC aims to complete three rounds of mowing each year across its 1,313 miles of certified roadway ensuring consistent upkeep and safety for the motoring public.

An independent panel of experts from Michigan's 83 county road agencies reviewed all IMPRESS Award submissions. "VBCRC is proud to join the ranks of other innovative road commissions celebrated by CRA of Michigan, solidifying its commitment to creating safer roads and operational excellence," the press release concluded.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

State of Michigan Judicial District 36th
Judicial Circuit County Probate
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE: 25-074548-CZ
Court: 212 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 • Phone: 269-657-8200

Plaintiff:
Third Party Plaintiffs
Brian W. Kelly & Kimberly Ann Kelly
280 39th St., Allegan, MI 49010
Plaintiff Attorney:
MINKA PLC by Imants M. Minka (P29211)
5987 West Main St., Ste 812, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-353-0100
iminka@minkalaw.com
V.
Defendant:
Third Party Defendants
Kimberly M. Christenson
25247 Elm Street
Calumet, MI 49913
and,
Walter Henry Clare, II
Address & Whereabouts unknown

TO: WALTER HENRY CLARE, II

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to **Defend in a lawsuit to quiet title to land located at 00360 51 1/2 Street, Grand Junction, MI 49056.** You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before **April 14,2025 (04/14/2025)**. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in three consecutive weeks, **Courier Leader** for, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

March 12,2025
Judge Susan Metzger

State of Michigan
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Estate of PATRICIA C. MAXSON
Date of Birth:December 17th,1945 (12/17/1945)
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia C. Maxson, died December 25th, 2022 (12/25/2022)
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Lori R. Henry**, personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Ste. 220, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

March 31, 2025

Attorney:
Willis Law
Chico S. Obande P77880
491 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-492-1040
Personal Representative:
Lori R. Henry
24286 31st Street, Gobles, MI 49055
269-364-0916

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: MICHAEL EDGELL; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 4/3/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-000805-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on May 08, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Michael Edgell a/k/a Michael D. Edgell married to Stephanie Edgell, signing to release dower Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: December 21, 2023 Recorded on December 28, 2023, Liber 1760, on Page 531, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Eight and 12/100 Dollars ($208,168.12) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 44, Sunset Estates, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 31 Commonly known as 25851 Pleasant Dr, Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1557729

(04-03)(04-24)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: PAUL JOHN MCFARLAND; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 3/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-001906-2; INSURER: FHLMC
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Paul John McFarland, a married man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 15, 2016 Recorded on May 24, 2016, Liber 1636, on Page 556, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty-Five and 40/100 Dollars ($73,355.40) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 24, Harrison Acres, Paw Paw Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 39. Commonly known as 56111 39th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1557056

(03-27)(04-17)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BROOKS COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE LLC; ATTY: FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. - BENJAMIN J. PRICE ; 1ST PUB: 3/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE SALE ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. DEFAULT having been made in the conditions of a certain Mortgage made on April 17, 2023, by Brooks Commercial Real Estate LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as Mortgagor, given by it to Commercial Bank, a Michigan banking corporation, as Mortgagee, recorded on May 1, 2023, in Liber 1752, Page 219, Van Buren County Records; on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due and unpaid, as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Three Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-One and 57/100 Dollars ($320,481.57); and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt or any part thereof secured by said Mortgage, and the power of sale in said Mortgage having become operative by reason of such default; NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon, at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan, that being one of the places for holding the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, there will be offered for sale and sold to the highest bidder or bidders at public auction or venue for purposes of satisfying the amounts due and unpaid on said Mortgage, together with all allowable costs of sale and includable attorney fees, the lands and premises in said Mortgage mentioned and described as follows: SITUATED IN THE CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN: Parcel 1: The East 22 feet of the West 44.0 feet of Lot 1 and also the East 22.0 feet of the West 44.0 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.50 feet of the above described lands, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 2: Beginning at a point on the South line of Lot 12, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, 222.50 feet East of the Southwest corner of said lot; thence Northerly and parallel with the East line of said lot, 132.0 feet; thence Easterly to the Northwest corner of Lot 2; thence Southerly to the Southwest corner of Lot 1; thence Westerly along South line of Lot 12 to the place of beginning, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.5 feet. ALSO the West 22 feet of Lots 1 and 2, EXCEPTING therefrom the North 16.5 feet of the West 22.0 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the City of South Haven, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 3: The East 22 feet of the West 1/2 of Lots 1 and 2, EXCEPT the North 16.5 feet thereof, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the recorded plat in Liber 25 of Plats, Page 470, Van Buren County Records, being a part of the Southeast fractional 1/4 of Section 3, Town 1 South, Range 17 West, according to the government survey thereof, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Parcel 4: The North 16.5 feet of Lot 2, Block 9, Hale, Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven. ALSO commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 12; thence Easterly along the South line of said lot 222.5 feet; thence Northerly parallel of the East line of said lot 115.5 feet to the beginning of this description; thence continuing Northerly parallel to the Easterly line of said lot 16.5 feet; thence Easterly to the Northwest corner of Lot 2; thence Southerly along the West line of said Lot 2, 16.5 feet; thence Westerly to the place of beginning, being in Block 9, Hale Conger and Company's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 559 Phoenix Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Parcel Number: 80-53-769-001-50 The period within which the above premises may be redeemed shall expire six (6) months from the date of sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the mortgagor(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector.
Dated: March 20, 2025 COMMERCIAL BANK of Alma, Michigan, Mortgagee FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS & SMITH, P.C. Benjamin J. Price Attorneys for Mortgagee 313 S. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 371-8253

(03-27)(04-17)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: AARON JOHNSON; ATTY: POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES - POTESTIVO & ASSOCIATES; 1ST PUB: 3/20/2025; ATTY FILE #: 320395; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Aaron Johnson, Married Man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Success Mortgage Partners, Inc., its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: March 26, 2019 Date of Mortgage Recording: April 9, 2019 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $127,073.41 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 67 in Westland Park No. 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 7 of plats, Page 61, Van Buren County Records. Commonly Known as: 57403 Rumshire Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 03/20/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 320395

(03-20)(04-10)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BARBARA LYNN ROKOS;

Continues on page 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF VAN BUREN COUNTY, MI PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN VAN BUREN COUNTY:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the County Commissioners of the County of Van Buren, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 10th, 2025, at 1:50 p.m. in the Commissioners Chambers within the County Building, 219 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, Michigan.

The Public Hearing will be held to receive public comments on a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan proposed on vacant land in the Village of Paw Paw, Michigan between Hazen Street and Lake Street. The redevelopment of the property will include a new residential development consisting of two (2) 24-unit and one (1) 18-unit multifamily buildings, and fifty-two (52) single-family lots for residential homes, including associated site improvements. The parcel is identified as Parcel ID #80-47-581-033-03.

Van Buren County has established a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA). The Van Buren County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority shall exercise its powers, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The proposed brownfield redevelopment plan would allow the developer, DDO Paw Paw, LLC to be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred to prepare the property for redevelopment. Eligible costs include site demolition, site preparation activities, and infrastructure improvements for a housing development. DDO

Paw Paw, LLC is requesting to utilize tax increment financing to reimburse eligible expenses related to the developments. The proposed plan includes the potential capture of tax increment revenues, including taxes levied for school operating purposes, subject to approval by the Michigan Strategic Fund and/or the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, in accordance with the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has recommended approval of the brownfield redevelopment plan to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the public hearing will provide an opportunity for interested persons to be heard and will allow the County Commission to receive and consider comments with reference to the brownfield redevelopment plan. All affected taxing jurisdictions and members of the public are encouraged to attend or submit written comments. The County Commission will consider the fiscal and economic impact of the plan, including the use of tax increment revenues, during the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, which includes a site map and legal descriptions of the parcel, is available for public inspection at the Community Services Department in the Van Buren County Administration Building, 219 E. Paw Paw St., Suite 201 Paw Paw, Michigan 49079- 1423 on any business day except public and legal holidays during normal business hours. All aspects of the plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

FURTHER INFORMATION may be obtained from the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of Van Buren County at (269) 657-8200 X 1073. THIS NOTICE is given by order of the County Board of the County of Van Buren, Michigan.

Suzie Roehm, Clerk
County of Van Buren

NOTICE OF ELECTION
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Election will be conducted in the above-named township, Van Buren County, on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 7:00am to 8:00pm for the purpose of voting on the following local millage proposal:

LOCATION: Bloomingdale Township Municipal Center:
Precinct 1 - 109 E. Kalamazoo St., Bloomingdale, MI 49026

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

Road Millage Proposal - Shall Bloomingdale Township impose a millage of 3.7329 mils ($3.7329 per $1000.00 of taxable value on real and personal property), subject to the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, section 6, of the Michigan Constitution, for a period of four years, 2025 through 2028 inclusive, for the purpose of road maintenance, improvements, repair, and construction? It is estimated the revenue collected by Bloomingdale Township as a result of this proposal will be $489,525.58 in the first year the millage is levied based on the most recent taxable value.

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote. Sample ballots may also be viewed in the Township Clerk's office.

Office hours for the Township Clerk: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-2pm

Extended hours: Saturday May 3, 2025, from 9am-5pm

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternate formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Melanie Kelly
Bloomingdale Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 9

ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 3/20/2025; ATTY FILE #: 521906F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Barbara Lynn Rokos, a single woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Village Capital & Investment, LLC
Date of Mortgage: October 26, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: October 30, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $52,040.17
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 34, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, Hartford Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as beginning at the East 1/4 post of said Section 34, thence S 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds W, along the East line of said Section, 1014.42 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described, thence continuing S 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds W, along the said East line, 300 feet to the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of said Southeast 1/4, thence N 89 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds W, along said South line, 300 feet, thence North 00 degrees 05 minutes 25 seconds E, parallel with the East line of said Section, 300 feet, thence S 89 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds E, parallel with the South line of the northeast 1/4 of said Southeast 1/4 300 feet to the place of beginning.
Common street address (if any): 70858 62nd St, Hartford, MI 49057-8659
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 20, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555936

(03-20)(04-10)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: MATE VUJIC; ATTY: TEAM J; 1ST PUB: 3/20/2025; ATTY FILE #: 490924F05; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Petar Vujic by Ante Vujic, his

Continues on page 11

VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 25-3
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 42, ZONING, OF THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD REGULATIONS FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT VENUES VILLAGE OF PAW PAW, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Chapter 42, Zoning, Article I, In General, Section 42-3, Definitions.
Chapter 42, Zoning, Article I, In General, Section 42-3, Definitions to modify and/or add the following definition to be read as follows:
"Outdoor Entertainment Venue: When used in this Ordinance, the term "outdoor entertainment venue" shall mean a venue or establishment for entertainment outside an enclosed building to which more than one hundred and fifty (150) persons may be admitted and for which a fee may be charged or accepted, including, but not limited to, dances, shows, plays, skits, musical revues, dance productions, musical concerts, theater, and the production or provision of sights or sounds or visual or auditory sensations that are intended to or may entertain."

Section 2. Amendment of Chapter 42, Section 42-223, Uses Subject to a Special Use Permit. In the B-2, General Business Zoning District, part (15) Outdoor Event Venue, shall be added to Section 42-223, Uses Subject to a Special Use Permit, and shall be read as follows:
(15) Outdoor Entertainment Venues

Section 3. Amendment of Section 42-367, Site Design Standards and Regulations for Special Uses and Certain New Uses. Section 42-367, Site Design Standards and Regulations for Special Uses and Certain New Uses shall be amended to repeal and replace Section 42-367(27) Other Uses, with Section 42-367(27) Outdoor Entertainment Venue, which shall read as follows:
(27) Outdoor Entertainment Venues.

1. The issuance of a special use permit by the Planning Commission under this section is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Village; to promote and encourage compatible outdoor uses in a comprehensive manner; to encourage the location and management of outdoor entertainment venues in a manner that protects the residents and property owners of the Village from the off-site impacts of such uses; and to minimize the adverse visual, acoustical and other negative impact of outdoor entertainment venues.
2. In addition to the required site plan, a venue management or event plan that addresses the following requirements shall be submitted:
   a. Parking. Off street parking shall be provided at a ratio of at least ½ the number established as the capacity of the venue. Dedicated off-street parking may be at the venue itself or within 500 feet of the venue, either through lease, ownership or other formal arrangement. Disabled parking must be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
   b. Capacity. The attendance capacity of the venue shall be established by the fire department or authority with jurisdiction over the venue and shall be based upon the submitted site plan.
   c. Communication. The names and phone numbers of at least two people who will have authority regarding the venue and the events produced therein shall be provided and updated as necessary to ensure communication between the venue and the Village of Paw Paw is maintained.
   d. Emergency and Security Planning. An emergency and security plan shall be submitted for review by the police and fire departments with jurisdiction over the venue. Potential emergencies to be addressed include those caused by weather, accidents and similar. A recommendation for approval must be made by these departments before the Planning Commission can take action on the Special Use application. At a minimum, the security plan shall address the following:
      i. i. Severe weather precautions and response plan
      ii. Fire response plan
      iii. Physical altercations (fights)
      iv. Private security provisions & planned activities
      v. Active shooter/mass casualty event plan
      vi. Medical emergency plan
      vii. The Chief of Police shall determine whether and to what extent additional police protection is reasonably necessary for the Outdoor Entertainment Venue for purposes of public safety and traffic control. The Chief of Police shall base this decision on the size, location, duration, time and date of the event.
3. **Sanitation.** The applicant must demonstrate that adequate provisions for sanitation facilities will be in place to accommodate a number of patrons equal to the venue capacity.
4. **Alcohol.** If the venue sells or provides alcoholic beverages to patrons, the applicant must demonstrate that it holds the license(s) required by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. In the event that the applicant's liquor license is changed or revoked by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, it must notify the Village immediately.
5. **Noise.** The applicant must provide information demonstrating that appropriate steps are taken to minimize or eliminate noise from escaping the venue. In no event shall the outdoor entertainment event take place between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m., Monday through Saturday of any week, nor before Noon or after 10 p.m. on Sundays.
   a. In addition to the above stated limitations on time of day, and day of the week, it shall be a prima facie violation of this regulation for any outdoor entertainment venue or presentation to create noise measured at street level, at or beyond the property line, in excess of the following:
   b. Ninety (90) DB between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m.
   c. Seventy-five (75) DB between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.
6. **Entrance & Egress.** The venue or event plan must demonstrate safe and adequate provisions for entrance and egress of patrons on foot or by vehicle as appropriate to the venue and/or event. The entrance and egress accommodation should facilitate a safe and swift emptying of the venue in the event of an emergency and should be evaluated by the police and fire departments with jurisdiction over the venue. Appropriate signage indicating exits shall be posted and visible at all times the venue is in operation.
7. **Lighting & illumination.** Exterior lighting, whether intended as part of the entertainment production or to illuminate the property and grounds must be directed and arranged to limit the effect of light on to adjacent properties.
8. **Insurance.** The venue owner or operator will provide information as to its liability insurance coverage, which must be in an amount of $1,000,000 or more.
9. **Camping & overnight lodging.** Camping and overnight stays by patrons is prohibited, unless the venue provides overnight lodging as part of its regular business operations. Overnight lodging must be provided in accordance with Village of Paw Paw regulations regarding hotels and motels, or short-term rentals as applicable.
10. **Trash & Rubbish.** The event plan shall include information regarding the number and placement of waste receptacles adequate for the event capacity, as well as a plan to prevent trash or rubbish from blowing onto or otherwise reaching adjacent properties or the public Right of Way.
11. **Conduct.** The event plan shall include information regarding how the applicant will monitor and address the conduct of patrons, especially as it relates to trespassing on adjacent properties, and the conduct of venue staff, performers and other personnel on the premises.
12. **Schedule.** The applicant shall provide information as to the maximum number of performances the venue intends to schedule in any given year, as well as the anticipated days and hours within which the venue will generally operate.
13. **Location.** The zoning lot for which the Special Use approval is sought shall be located on a major or secondary thoroughfare with adequate traffic capacity to avoid congestion and facilitate safe travel to and from the venue.
14. **Violations; Permit Modifications and/or Revocation**
   a. A violation of any of the requirements of this Section shall be a municipal civil infraction. In addition to civil infraction violations, the Village Manager or his/her designee may determine that a special use permit issued for an outdoor entertainment venue should be revoked temporarily or permanently upon a violation of this Section. Upon determination by the Village Manager or his/her designee to revoke a special use permit, the Village Manager shall give notice of that determination to the venue's owner or local agent. The notice shall inform the operator or local agent of the right to a hearing before the Village Planning Commission on whether the revocation should be upheld. The operator or local agent may request a hearing by giving a written request to the Village Clerk within 30 days after the Village Manager gives notice of his/her determination. If a hearing is requested timely, the Village shall schedule the hearing before the Planning Commission and notify the operator or local agent in writing of the time and place for that hearing. At the hearing, the Village, and the permit holder may present evidence as to whether the cited violation occurred and whether the permit should be revoked. At or after the hearing, the Planning Commission shall issue a written decision in the form of a resolution on whether to uphold the revocation of the permit or modify the revocation.
   b. The Planning Commission may limit the overall number of days the venue may operate in a given period of time and may limit the number of days and the hours of operation for such use as it is deemed necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.
   c. A person may not apply for another special land use permit for an outdoor entertainment venue until one year after the revocation is effective, unless the revocation is made on a temporary basis.
15. **Other Requirements.**
   a. Approval by the zoning administrator for compliance with the site plan and conditions imposed by the Planning Commission is required prior to occupancy of the facility. Thereafter, the zoning administrator shall conduct an annual compliance inspection.
   b. No special use permit or other permit shall be issued that is not in compliance with this section. General maintenance and upkeep, such as minor repairs, painting, cleaning and similar activities to existing outdoor entertainment venues shall not require the issuance or re-issuance of a special use permit.
   c. A special use permit issued by the Planning Commission under this section may be revoked, or conditions of approval changed, by the Planning Commission following a public hearing, if recommended for review by the Village Manager or their designee.
   d. A special use permit issued by the Planning Commission under this section shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission every five (5) years. It shall be the responsibility of the Village Manager or designee to initiate the five-year review.
   e. A special use permit issued by the Planning Commission under this section shall expire immediately upon the abandonment of the use for two consecutive years.

Section 4. Severability and Captions. This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, sentences, phrases, and clauses thereof are hereby declared severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase, or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby. The captions included at the beginning of each Section are for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Repeal. Any existing ordinance or resolution that is inconsistent or conflicts with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance was adopted by the Paw Paw Village Council on **March 17, 2025**, and shall take effect on the 7th day after publication of a notice of adoption in the **Courier-Leader,** a newspaper of general circulation in the Village, pursuant to the provisions of Act 110 of 2006, as amended.
ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES: Martinez, Rohr, Plaszczak, Craddock, Hamilton, Richardson
NO: N/A
ABSENT/~~ABSTAIN:~~ McQueen

Declared adopted on: **March 17, 2025**

Roman Plaszczak, Karla Tacy, Village President Village Clerk

Subject chased through Allegan, Van Buren Counties

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

On Monday, April 7th at 2:27 pm, police radioed that they were looking for a wanted subject out of Northern Michigan, whose phone was last pinged on I-196 between Decatur and South Haven.

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office/Michigan State Police rapidly located him and attempted to make a traffic stop, but the subject began to flee. They were unclear as to why he fled and what he was wanted for, but began to suspect he was armed.

Law enforcement lost visual on the subject, but shortly after found his vehicle behind Jars Cannabis off Blue Star Highway in Fennville, south of Douglas. However, he wasn't in it.

Multiple officers set up a perimeter on I-196 and Blue Star, and the K-9 units were called in to help locate the subject. But it did not work.

A few minutes later, the subject called the police department, confirmed he ran from the Allegan County Sheriff's Office/Michigan State Police, stated he would turn himself in tomorrow, and then hung up.

Police were unhappy at this point and requested help from the Hamilton Fire Department's Drone Team.

The drones located a subject matching the male's description in Jar's parking lot, who law enforcement quickly held at gunpoint.

At 2:54, less than 30 minutes after the initial call, the subject was confirmed to be the wanted man from Northern Michigan. He was immediately taken into custody and will be evaluated for minor lacerations he had on his hands.

NOTE:
This article was compiled entirely from a recent transcript of police radio activities, and the situation is still developing. Lots of information and context was unfortunately left out because at the time of publication (Tuesday morning) no official reports have been released by any law enforcement agencies. Hopefully more will come out and Wilcox Newspapers can provide an update.

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Sign up today for our E-papers!
Just visit our website @ epaper.wilcoxnewspapers.com to start your $20.00 email subscription.

I SAW IT IN THE FLASHES

KOC holds March Magic Basketball Challenge

The Paw Paw Knights of Columbus recently held their annual March Magic Basketball Challenge at the Van Buren Bert Goens Learning Center, Lawrence. The event gives students an opportunity to experience the national basketball frenzy by participating in a series of ability level skills to the cheers of the crowd. A free throw and three-point events were held as well, and at the conclusion of the program, a celebrity three-point contest pitting some of the BGLC staff against Michigan State Police troopers and deputies from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, and the Lawrence Township Emergency Services Fire Department. MSP regained their title for the win. The KOC expressed thanks to the Van Buren Tech Polymer Tech program for providing event tokens and the Learning Center staff for their help in making the event a success.

Photos courtesy/Phil Hover

DeYoung signs letter of intent to play football with Michigan Tech University

Paw Paw Red Wolves varsity football standout, PJ DeYoung, on Monday, March 24, signed a letter of intent to play football at Michigan Tech University, Houghton. The Paw Paw High School senior is shown with his parents, Lisa and Phil DeYoung. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 10

attorney-in-fact and Mate Vujic by Ante Vujic, his attorney-in-fact
Original Mortgagee: Bank of America, N.A.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc.
Date of Mortgage: August 21, 2008
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 27, 2008
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $88,989.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 26, Block 1 Boudreau Shores, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County in Liber 5 of Plats, Page 2.
Common street address (if any): 60558 N Lakeshore Dr, Lawrence, MI 49064-9723
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 20, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555956

(03-20)(04-10)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: GARED M OWSIANY; ATTY: HOLZMAN, RITTER & LEDUC, PLLC - HOLZMAN CORKERY, PLLC; 1ST PUB: 3/13/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN)- MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Gared M. Owsiany a/k/a Gared Owsiany, a married man, ("Mortgagor"), gave a mortgage to United Bay Community Credit Union, ("Mortgagee"), dated August 25, 2020, and recorded on September 03, 2020, in Liber 1705, on Page 554, Van Buren County Records, Michigan. On the date of this notice, there is claimed to be due the principal of One Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars and 75/100 Dollars ($132,248.75) plus accrued interest at 3.25% per annum. Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at the place of holding in the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan @ 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 17, 2025. Said premises are situated in the Township of Paw Paw, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section 22, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, according to the government survey thereof, and running thence with bearing referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Survey Maps, Page 314, North 88 degrees 16 minutes 41 seconds West along the South Line of the Southeast quarter of said Section 1045.58 feet to the point of beginning of this description; Thence North 01 degree 04 minutes 40 seconds east parallel with the East line of said Southeast Quarter 835.00 feet; Thence South 88 degrees 16 minutes 41 seconds East parallel with said South line 522.78 feet; thence South 01 degree 04 minutes 40 seconds West 835.00 feet to the South line of said Section; thence North 88 degrees 16 minutes 41 seconds West 522.78 feet to beginning, according to a survey made by Smith and Smith, Inc., recorded in Liber 2 of Survey Maps, Page 78 on June 20, 1972. Commonly: 38338 64th Avenue Paw Paw, MI 49079—Tax Id #80-14-022-044-00 The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under Section 600.3278 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: March 13, 2025 United Bay Community Credit Union, Mortgagee Holzman Law, PLLC By: Charles J. Holzman Attorney for Mortgagee 28366 Franklin Road Southfield, Michigan 48034 (248)352-4340

(03-13)(04-10)

NOTICE TO ALMENA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

Almena Township will sponsor a ONE DAY Spring clean-up for the **Township on Saturday, April 19, 2025**
Hours are 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
at the Historic Township Hall Parking Lot, located on CR 375, directly behind the Township Hall.

Attendants will be on duty to help receive materials for disposal. You must have identification to prove you are an Almena Township resident.

We will NOT accept the following:
Tires - Appliances, Cement, Chemicals, Paint
Hazardous Materials - Leaves - Batteries - Loose Trash.
Dead Animals - Rocks - Sand - Dirt - Concrete - Rubble - Building or Demolition Materials.

Almena Township,Joe Leduc, Supervisor

NOTICE ALMENA TOWNSHIP CEMETERIES

Please remove all summer/ seasonal decorations from the **ALMENA** and **COVEY HILL CEMETERIES** by April 15, 2025 so that maintenance personnel can prepare the grounds for Spring Cleanup.

Please be aware that we will be enforcing our Cemetery Ordinance; we appreciate your understanding. Please see the signs with allowable decorations posted in the cemetery.

ANY NON-CONFORMING DECORATIONS LEFT AFTER THAT DATE WILL BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF ACCORDINGLY.

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
Sandra Rickli, Clerk

NOTICE WAVERLY TOWNSHIP GLENDALE & AUSTIN CEMETERIES

PLEASE REMOVE ALL WINTER FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY APRIL 15 TH FOR SPRING CLEANUP

IF NOT REMOVED SEXTON WILL REMOVE AND DESTROY

WAVERLY TOWNSHIP CLERK
STARR HOUSTON

CLASSIFIEDS

• HELP WANTER •

PART-TIME HELP WANTED
MILLER THERMOMETER CO.
14 S. Center Street, Hartford, MI 49057 • 269-621-3124

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

LAFORET LOGGING LLC, BUYER OF STANDING TIMBER, popple, pine, hardwood. Competitive prices and insured. 5 acres and up. Contact Andy at 989-429-0946.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

GRANT DALY PAINTING:
Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

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FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

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Frame thru finish, high quality, highly qualified carpenters. Call 269-903-6397.

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• FOR SALE •

KITCHEN CABINET DEALER MADE MISTAKE. Ordered wrong color. Light Maple cabinets, full kitchen, under $2500. Rick 382-5623.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD

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Mattawan grad earns top honor at WMU

Kalamazoo - Andrew Kaczmar, a 2021 graduate of Mattawan High School, has been named a Presidential Scholar in Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, the university's highest academic honor for undergraduates.

Kaczmar was recognized during a special ceremony held March 14 at WMU's Student Center. Each year, faculty members across nearly 50 academic departments, schools, and programs select one outstanding senior to represent their unit as a Presidential Scholar. This year's honorees were chosen from a senior class of 4,349 students.

The Presidential Scholar designation is awarded based on overall academic achievement, excellence within a student's major, and demonstrated intellectual or artistic promise.

During his time at WMU, Kaczmar has distinguished himself through leadership roles in the Lee Honors College, the Western Student Association, and several other campus organizations.

He plans to continue his academic journey at WMU by pursuing a master's degree in Biological Sciences. Kaczmar will also advance his research in genetics under the guidance of Dr. Andrew Thompson.

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Palm Sunday April 13

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VILLAGE MARKET
FOOD CENTERS
YOUR HOMETOWN STORE

2025: AD EFFECTIVE DATES

MON. APR. 7	TUES. APR. 8	WED. APR. 9	THUR. APR. 10	FRI. APR. 11	SAT. APR. 12	SUN. APR. 13

Mix or Match
Village Market, All Natural
Boneless Assorted Center Cut or Butterfly Pork Chops
America's Cut, Thin, Pepper Seasoned or Seasoned America's Cut

BUY TWO PKG. GET Three Free
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Shredded Cheese
6 - 8 oz.
(excludes swiss)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Mix or Match
Village Market, All Natural, Fresh
Pork Steak
Regular, BBQ, Thin, Thick, Boneless or Stuffed

BUY TWO PKG. GET Three Free
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

Assorted Varieties
7-Up Products
6 pk., 16.9 oz. btls. (plus deposit)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Fresh Express Iceberg Garden Salad Mix
12 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Village Market, All Natural
Boneless Baby Back Ribs
Regular or BBQ

BUY TWO PKG. GET Three Free
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

Select Varieties
Dean's Country Fresh Ice Cream
48 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Village Market, Fresh
Chicken Drumsticks
Regular or BBQ

BUY TWO PKG. GET Three Free
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

Mix or Match
Village Market, All Natural, Fresh
Pork Strips
Regular or BBQ

BUY TWO PKG. GET Three Free
OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Chunk Cheese
(8 oz.) or
Cube Cheese (6.4 oz.)
(excludes swiss)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Ball Park Hot Dogs
Regular or Bunsize
15 oz.

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Select Varieties
Utz Chips
7.75 - 8 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Powerade Sports Drink
28 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Farmland Roll Sausage
12 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Our Family Russet Potatoes
3 lb. bag

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Smithfield Marinated Tenderloin
18.4 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Eckrich Bologna or Cotto Salami
10 - 12 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Dutch Farms American Cheese Singles
12 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Smithfield Premium Sliced Bacon
16 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Lynden Farms Crinkle Cut Fries
(2 lb.) or Shoestring Fries (20 oz.)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Jumbo Red, Orange or Yellow Bell Peppers
each

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Eckrich Sausage
10 - 14 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Natural Cheese Slices
6 oz.
(excludes swiss)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Smithfield Diced or Cubed Ham
8 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Smithfield Pre-Cooked Bacon
2.1 oz.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

TopCare Extra Strength Headache Caps
100 ct.

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Armour Pepperoni
Turkey or Original
(4 - 5 oz.) or
Hard Salami (5 oz.)

BUY TWO GET Three Free

Deli Dark Meat Chicken

BUY TWO Pieces
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Mixed Legs & Thighs
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2/$7

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$1.49 lb.

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2 lb. bag

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each ..... 3/$4

Our Family Baby Bella Mushrooms

Sliced or Whole

8 oz. ..... 2/$5

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$1.69 lb.

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Organic Broccoli or Cauliflower

each

$3.99

Select Varieties

Earthbound Farm Salad Mixes

10 oz.

$4.99

floral center

10-Stem Tulips

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$8.99

each $11.99

Easter Lily

each

2/$20

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each

$6.99

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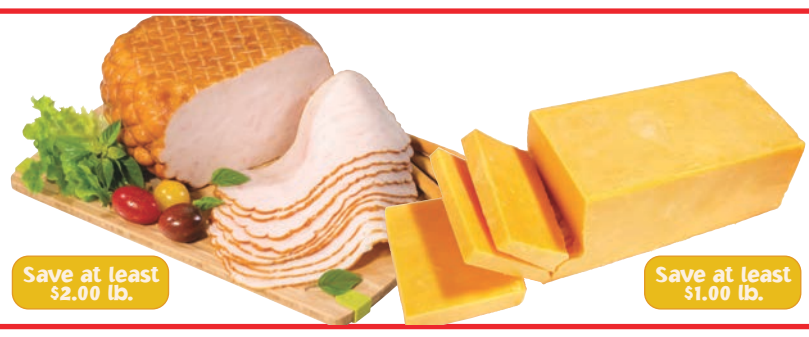

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Dietz & Watson Sharp Cheddar Cheese

$8.99 lb.

Grab 'N Go

12-Piece Deli Fried Chicken

$17.99

Save at least $1.00

Bang Bang Shrimp Salad

$6.49 lb.

Save at least $1.50 lb.

Sandridge Salads

Cole Slaw, Macaroni Salad, Mustard or Original Potato Salad

$2.49 lb.

Save at least 50¢ lb.

Select Varieties

Odyssey Feta Crumbles

4 oz.

$3.99

Save at least 50¢

$5.99

Daily Lunch Specials

Monday - Friday 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Monday, Apr. 7:
1/2 Panini of the Day
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Tuesday, Apr. 8:
Meatloaf
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Wednesday, Apr. 9:
2-Piece Chicken
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side (1 Breast Limit)

Thursday, Apr. 10:
Pork Chops
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

Friday, Apr. 11:
Cod
includes 1 Hot Side & 1 Cold Side

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Fresh Baked

Cracked Wheat Bread

16 oz.

$3.29

Save at least 70¢

Fresh Baked

Sub Buns

4 ct.

$2.99

Save at least 50¢

Fresh Baked

Hot Cross Buns

9 ct.

$4.99

Fresh Baked

Blueberry Pie

8-inch

$7.99

Save at least $1.00

Select Varieties

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11 - 12 oz.

$4.39

Save at least 60¢

Baked Croissants

4 ct.

$3.99

Save at least 50¢

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$1.49 lb.

Butt Portion
$1.59 lb.

Village Market, Fresh
Ground Hamburger Patties
Family Pack
$4.99 lb.

Ground Round Burger Patties
$6.99 lb.

Fresh
Split Chicken Breast
Family Pack
$2.99 lb.

Fresh Thin & Fancy Boneless Chicken Breast
$4.99 lb.

Tender Ridge, Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Chuck Roast or Family Pack Chuck Steak
$6.99 lb.

Steak Lesser Amount Pkg.
$7.49 lb.

Pork Roast Sale

Village Market, All Natural, Fresh
Boneless Pork Shoulder Butt Roast
$1.99 lb.

Village Market, All Natural
Boneless Center Cut Half Pork Loin
$2.69 lb.

Tender Ridge, Choice Angus
Boneless Beef Top Sirloin Steak
Family Pack
$9.99 lb.

Frozen
Our Family Self-Basting Young Turkeys
with Pop-Up Timer
Assorted Sized
$1.49 lb.

Butcher Shoppe Specialties

Village Market, Store Made
Cheddar Pork Sausage Links
Family Pack
$3.99 lb.

Village Market, Store Made, Fresh
Maple Bulk Pork Sausage
$3.29 lb.

Village Market, Store Made
Stuffed Green Peppers
$5.99 lb.

Tender Ridge
Boneless Beef Cubed Steak
Family Pack
$7.99 lb.

Select Varieties
Smithfield Anytime Favorites Sliced Ham
1.5 lb.
$7.99

Select Varieties
Land O'Frost Premium Lunch Meat
9 - 16 oz.
$5.99

Select Varieties
Bob Evans Family Size Sides or Entrées
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$4.99

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Catfish Fillets
$8.99 lb.

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Our Family Extra Large Raw Shrimp
26 - 30 ct., 16 oz.
$8.49

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Select Varieties
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18 - 19.7 oz.
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Bulk Original Pork Breakfast Sausage
Family Pack
$2.99 lb.

Select Varieties
Post Giant Size Cereal
23 oz.
$5.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Cereal
28 - 32 oz.
$3.99

Select Varieties
Maxwell House Ground Coffee
22 - 33.1 oz.
$9.99

Select Varieties
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10 - 12 ct.
$4.99

Select Varieties
Hungry Jack Pancake Mix
32 oz.
2/$6

Select Varieties
Aunt Millie's Bagels
6 ct.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Aunt Millie's Swirl Bread
16 oz.
2/$7

Select Varieties
Lender's Bagels
17.1 oz.
2/$5

Select Varieties
Kellogg's Pop-tarts
8 ct.
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Nature Valley Bars
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20 oz.
2/$4

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12 oz.
$3.99

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Funables Fruit Snacks
10 ct.
2/$6

Select Varieties
Campbell's Tomato Juice or V8 Juice
46 - 64 oz.
2/$6

Hungry Jack Syrup
24 oz.
$3.99

Dutch Farms Corned Beef Hash
16 oz. roll
2/$9

Easter Savings

Our Family Crispy French Fried Onions
6 oz.
$2.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Broth
32 aseptic
2/$4

Select Varieties
Ken's Salad Dressing
16 oz.
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!

Select Varieties
Our Family Salad Dressing
16 oz.
2/$5

Select Varieties
Nestlé Toll House Morsels
9 - 12 oz.
$3.99

Select Varieties
Pillsbury Cake Mix
15.25 oz.
2/$3

Select Varieties
Pillsbury Frosting
15.6 - 16 oz.
2/$4

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Bread, All Purpose
Bleached or Unbleached
5 lb.
$3.99

Our Family Light or Dark Brown or Powdered Sugar
2 lb.
$1.99

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Our Family Cooking Oil
40 - 48 oz.
$3.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Canned Vegetables
14.5 - 15.25 oz.
5/$5

Select Varieties
Our Family Marshmallows
10 - 10.5 oz.
3/$4

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(9.25 - 10 oz.), **Cheetos** (8 - 8.5 oz.) (excludes organic)
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12.5 - 13 oz.
$4.99

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2/$3

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Peanut, Milk Chocolate, Peanut Butter or Mini Milk Chocolate, 9 - 10.05 oz.
$4.99

Save at least $1.80 on 1

Select Varieties
Our Family Cranberry Juice
64 oz.
2/$6

Save at least 30¢ on 2

Coors Banquet or Light or Miller Lite or Genuine Draft
20 pk. btls. (plus deposit)
$19.99

Save at least 50¢ on 1

Sunny D Juice
Tangy or Smooth
64 oz.
2/$3

Save at least $2.98 on 2

Assorted Varieties
Pepsi Products
(1.25 liter) (plus deposit) or **Life Wtr, Propel** or **Gatorade Drinks** (1 liter)
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20 oz.
4/$5

Select Varieties
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12 pk. (plus deposit)
$18.99

Select Varieties
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1.5 liter
$12.89

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Select Varieties
Little Debbie Family Pack Mini Muffins
8.44 oz.
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50 sq. ft.
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(6 - 8 ct.) or **Deli Hearth Kaiser** or **Mini Sub Buns** (8 ct.) or **Hearth Onion** or **Super Sub Buns** (6 ct.)
2/$6

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Dill or Sweet
10 oz.
2/$3

Select Varieties
Snack Pack Pudding or Gelatin
4 ct.
3/$4

Save at least $1.47 on 3

Select Varieties
Our Family Designer Paper Plates
24 - 48 ct.
2/$6

Save at least $1.48 on 2

Select Varieties
StarKist Chunk Light Tuna
in Water or Oil
5 oz.
99¢

Save at least 46¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Gerber 2nd Foods or Toddler Yogurt Pouches
3.5 oz.
4/$5

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Select Varieties
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(1.48 oz.), Li'l Crunchies, Cookies, Li'l Meals or Breakfast Buddies (4.5 - 8 oz.)
2/$5

Our Family Paper Towel
Ultra Big Select-A-Size White
6 ct. roll
$8.79

Save at least $1.00 on 1

Our Family Quilted Premium Bath Tissue
6 ct. roll
2/$7

Select Varieties
Our Family Pasta
12 - 16 oz.
3/$4

Save at least $1.97 on 3

Select Varieties
Our Family Pasta Sauce
23 - 24 oz.
2/$4

Select Varieties
Friskies Cat Food
Prime, Savory or Classic
5.5 oz.
6/$5

Select Varieties
Tidy Cats Cat Litter
20 lb.
$10.99

dairy savings - dairy savings

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(28 - 32 oz.) or
Cold Foam (14 oz.)
2/$7
Save at least $3.38 on 2

Select Varieties
Daisy Cottage Cheese or Sour Cream
24 oz.
2/$7
Save at least $1.38 on 2

Our Family Whole Milk
or **TruMoo** Whole or 4% Chocolate Milk
gallon
$3.89
Save at least 10¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Our Family Butter
Tub (15 oz.) or
Quarters (16 oz.)
$3.99
Save at least 30¢ on 1

Dutch Farms Cream Cheese
Regular or Light
8 oz. bar
2/$4
Save at least $1.98 on 2

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16 oz.
$3.49
Save at least 50¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Country Crock Butter Bowls or Drizzle
Regular or Flavored
14 - 15 oz.
2/$6
Save at least $1.58 on 2

Select Varieties
Dutch Farms Bagels
14 oz.
2/$4
Save at least $1.00 on 2

frozen favorites - frozen favorites

Select Varieties
Edy's Ice Cream
Grand Classic, Slow Churned Light or
No Sugar Added Slow Churned, 1.5 qt.
2/$10
Save at least $5.98 on 2

Select Varieties
Roma Pizza
10.54 - 14.1 oz.
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Save at least $4.96 on 4

Select Varieties
Häagen-Dazs Ice Cream
14 oz.
2/$10
Save at least $3.98 on 2

Select Varieties
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7.3 - 13.5 oz.
2/$7
Save at least $2.58 on 2

Select Varieties
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6 - 12.88 oz.
2/$6
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Select Varieties
Our Family Frozen Vegetables
Regular or Steamable, 10 - 12 oz.
2/$3
Save at least $2.18 on 2

Select Varieties
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30 - 32 oz.
$3.99
Save at least 90¢ on 1

Select Varieties
Home Bake Frozen Sides
15 - 22.2 oz.
$4.99
Save at least $3.50 on 1

HAPPY Easter 2025

Paas Classic Egg Decorating Kit
each
2/$5

Select Varieties
Regent Shaped Easter Baskets
each
2/$5

Select Varieties
Orchid & Vine Easter Eggs or Easter Grass
each
2/$5

Select Varieties
Regent Pastel Bucket with Handle
each
$2.99

Regent Pinwheel Flower
each
2/$5

Ja-Ru Duckie Bubble Wand
each
$3.99

Little Kids Disney Giant Bubble
each
$3.99

Ja-Ru Suns Out Sports Vehicle
each
$2.99

Ja-Ru Suns Out Wobble Truck
each
$3.99

Select Varieties
Ja-Ru Suns Out Pop 'n Catch
each
$4.99

health & beauty and general merchandise

TopCare Diphedryl Tabs
100 ct. .....
BUY TWO, GET THREE FREE!

TopCare Loratadine 24 Hour Allergy Relief
10 ct. .....
BUY TWO, GET THREE FREE!

TopCare Cetrizine 10 mg Tablets
30 ct. .....
BUY TWO, GET THREE FREE!

Pet Care Sale

Paws Litter Scoop (each) or **Cat Toy Balls** (3 ct.)
$1.99

Select Varieties
Paws Pet Toys or Treats
1 - 20 ct.
$2.99

Paws Pet Toys, Supplies or Treats
1 - 60 ct.
$4.99

Paws Mallard Duck Dog Toy (each) or **Pet Waste Bags** (120 ct.)
$6.99

Select Varieties
Paws Rawhide Chips (1 lb.) or **Puppy Training Pads** (30 ct.)
$9.99

Paws Stainless Steel Medium Dog Dish
each
$11.99

Select Varieties
Our Family Foil Bake & Take Pans
2 - 3 ct. .....
BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE!

TopCare Triple Antibacterial Care Cream
.5 oz. .....
$3.99

First Aid Antibiotic & Pain Relieving Cream
TopCare
Antibiotic Cream • Pain Relief
First Aid Antibiotic & Pain Relieving Cream
TopCare
Antibiotic Cream • Pain Relief

Select Varieties
TopCare Epsom Salt
Original or Scented
3 - 4 lb. .....
$5.99

Select Varieties
TopCare Bandages
10 - 20 ct. .....
$2.99

TopCare Calamine Lotion Spray
4.1 oz. .....
$7.99

Select Varieties
Boost Nutrition Drinks
Original or High Protein
12 ct.
$18.99

Select Varieties
VO5 Shampoo or Conditioner
15 oz.
3/$4

Select Varieties
Softsoap Hand Soap
7.5 oz.
2/$3

Select Varieties
Speed Stick Deodorant
(3 oz.) or **Lady Speed Stick Deodorant** (2.3 oz.)
$2.99

We reserve the right to limit quantities & are not responsible for pictorial or typographical errors. Items with a purchase requirement exclude alcohol, tobacco, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union & money orders.

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Come check it out at:
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(see store for details)

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- Allegan: Open 6AM - 12AM 7 Days!
- Colon, Decatur & Gobles: Open 7AM - 10PM 7 Days!

Village Market Food Centers

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5% Senior Discount
(55 & Older)
Wednesday Only
(Excluding Alcohol, Tobacco Products, lottery, stamps, gift cards, Western Union and money orders)
Please present coupon before starting purchase.
Coupon Valid Wednesday, April 9, 2025 Only!